PRIVATE EYE

No. 1038
5 October –
18 Oct. 2001
£1.20

FREE CARTOON SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

EDWARD TV DRAMA

YES, IT'S WAR!

wisdom

At Witan, all our investment decisions are
based on the wisdom of nine decades of experience.
Which is a cheering thought.

Witan investment trust

0800 082 81 80| www.witan.com quoting ref. Market

Henderson Global Investors is the name under which Henderson Global Investors Limited and Henderson Investment Funds Limited, Henderson Fund Management plc and Henderson Administration Limited (all regulated by the FSA) provide investment products and services. 4 Broadgate, London EC2M 2DA.

Gnome

IN DESPERATE times when our whole way of life is threatened by external events beyond our control, and when the very fabric of our society is being undermined by the forces of evil, the government has one over-riding duty – to give me lots of money.

Mr Gordon Brown owes it to Britain to make sure that Gnome Enterprises (including Gnome-Air, Gnom-o-Tels, Gnomeon Theatre Group, Gnome Leisure Inc, Gnomeburgers UK etc) remains highly profitable.

He should send a huge cheque (£2 million) at once to:

Lord Gnome
c/o Gnome Industries,
Grand Cayman.

GNOME SAYS: LET'S DECLARE WAR ON FALLING PROFITS!

NOT The Foot and Mouth Report

DON'T MISS **Private Eye's special 32-page pamphlet. On sale 26 October, £1.50. See advertisement on page 35.**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

£19 per annum. Europe and Eire £27. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

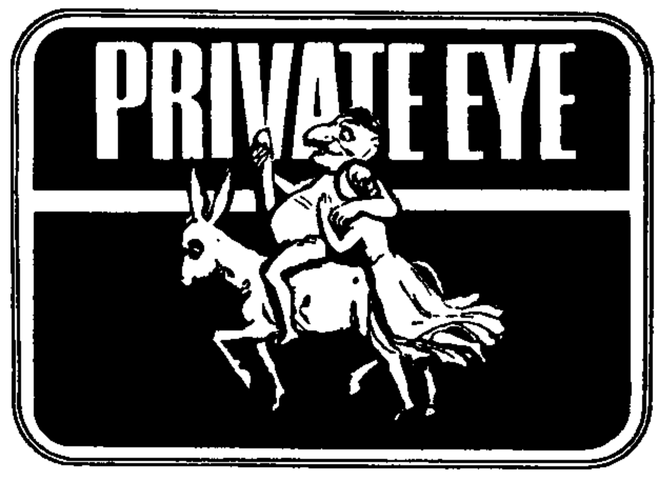
PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE.
Tel: 020-7228 0588. Fax: 020-7924 3719.
Email: subscriptions@private-eye.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020-7437 4017.
Fax: 020-7437 0705. Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk.
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

ADVERTISING
Tel: 020-7923 5402

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by Goodhead Print Group plc, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distribution, Mortimer House, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1 LE. 020 7223 9971.

ABC



Ardent about royalty!

- ***Warballs and the opening of stupidities*** **5**
- ***The FMD gag that isn't funny: HP Sauce*** **6**
- ***The Saudi ambassador writes...*** **7**
- ***Seeing eye to Eye with Cullen*** **10**
- ***Novel approach to war reporting:*** **24, 25**
- ***Banking bin Laden-style: In the City*** **28**

HOW ROLLING NEWS WORKS

"If you've just joined us, the entire eastern seaboard of the United States has been decimated in a terrorist attack."

— Sky News anchor Kay Burley, 11 September 2001.

"People comment on how in control I am. But my emotions don't matter. When I'm telling the news all that's important are the facts."

— Kay Burley quoted in a Sun *feature promoting Sky News's coverage of the World Trade Center attack, the Concorde crash in Paris and the death of the Princess of Wales, 25 September.*

IN THE light of current troubles all ears will be on the BBC's Caversham-based monitoring service which transcribes and translates broadcasts from across the world – not least Afghanistan.

While the service has been praised for its coverage of the Taliban regime, little has been made of the recent decision of managers to disband the Arabic team which has been responsible for the centre's North Africa output since 1939 (see *Eye 1034*).

In-house coverage is being replaced with "independent contractors" working within such bastions of media freedom as, er, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. In July the broadcast union BECTU warned: "In the countries where it is proposed to hire independent contractors, very low levels of press freedom exist. Independent contractors are likely to practise self-censorship and refrain from reporting on opposition activities."

Shame, perhaps, that BBC bosses show no sign of reversing their decision.

"...there is growing evidence that bin Laden and his partners in terror have also been good customers of the rapidly growing Islamic banking sector."

● *See Slicker, page 28.*

THE terrorist attacks in America caused Buckingham Palace to activate its so-called "Diana Plan" for the first time. This involves reacting to a major event swiftly by getting Brenda to the centre of the action – which the palace failed to do after Diana's death, when the royals remained on holiday at Balmoral.

The royal family received such a tabloid pasting in 1997 that it was agreed it must not happen again, and the Diana Plan was formulated with Downing Street help.

So, within hours of the collapse of the twin towers, Brenda had sent personal messages to president Bush and the American ambassador, agreed various orders allowing flags to fly at half-mast and personally ordered the playing of "the Star Spangled Banner" during the changing of the guard following a suggestion made by Prince Andrew, of all people. The queen then returned to London within 48 hours to attend a memorial service at St Paul's.

It has now been agreed that, if appropriate, the queen will address the nation should there be a major terrorist attack in Britain or if things in Afghanistan go badly wrong. The speech will be written by Queen Brenda but cleared by Downing Street. She will be more fully informed this time than during the Gulf war, when she complained of hearing things first on the TV news.

Prince Andrew, recently retired from the navy and not doing too well as Britain's roving trade ambassador, is to be the active link between monarch and military – including visits to the front line.

GOVERNMENT spin doctors are desperately trying to dampen down the identification card fire lit by home secretary David Blunkett last week in a BBC interview.

They are claiming that Blunkett only produced the old ID card chestnut to John Humphrys to try to deflect some difficult questions about Britain's domestic efforts to combat terrorism. While the press subsequently went into a frenzy about thumb print or iris identification and civil libertarians fretted about police picking on any "johnny foreigner", surprised civil servants worried more about the phenomenal costs and impracticality of issuing 60m people with ID cards – which this government long ago recognised as a useless anti-crime tool.

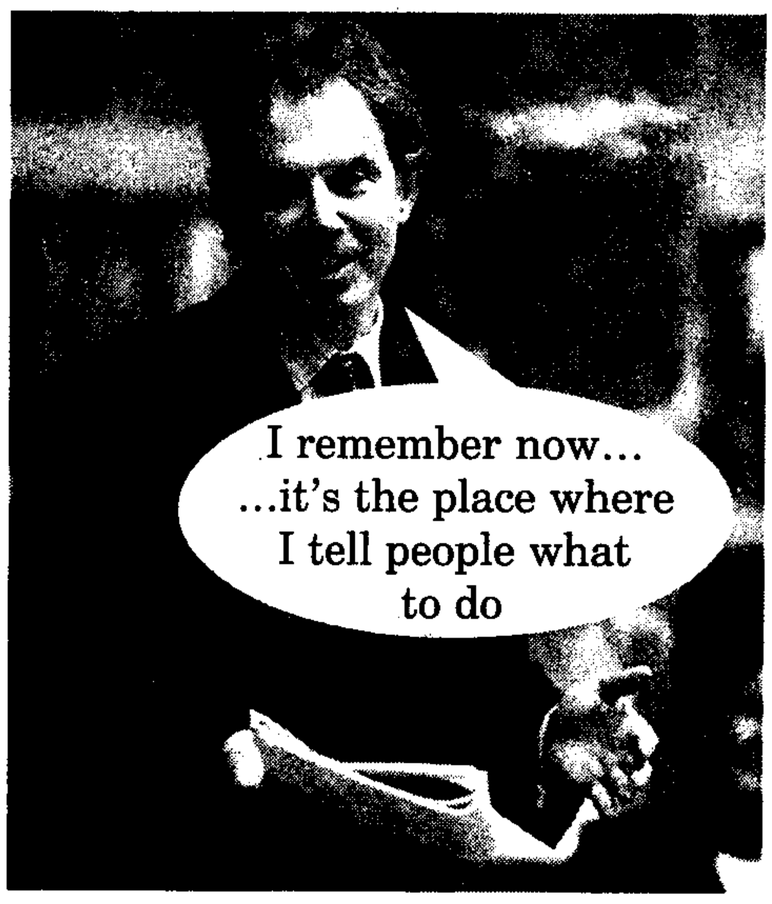
THE ICM computer group was quick off the mark in cashing-in on the World Trade Center tragedy.

Within three days of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Yorkshire-based ICM issued a press release attempting to drum up business. "Increasingly, businesses have to be aware that corporate disaster is a possibility," said ICM helpfully.

"Companies may encounter collapse on any level, although the World Trade Centre devastation is an extreme case," it continued, before urging businesses to sign-up for a "business continuity solution" provided by ICM.

Stockbrokers Hargreaves Lansdown were also quick to act. Within three days of the atrocity they were sending out the following junk mail: "America Under Attack. What now for world stockmarkets, PEPs and ISAs? It has never been more important than it is today to have the flexibility to take shelter from stockmarket storms... The HL Vantage is the new way to shelter your PEP and ISA funds."

BLAIR RECALLS PARLIAMENT



NEWS

THE quick work of the FBI in identifying the hijackers of the crashed planes in America was suitably admired, especially after the criticism of their failure to predict the attack.

The names and pictures of the guilty men were released and published — to the astonishment of some of the men themselves, who protested that they were very much alive and had never hijacked anything in their lives.

The *Sunday Telegraph* on 23 September carried interviews with four of them, all of whom announced that they had had their passports stolen some years ago. In other words, at least some of the names given to the airlines by the hijackers were false and had been taken from stolen passports — a subtle ruse which seems not to have occurred to the hawk-eyed detectives from the FBI.

It is worth recalling (*Eye* 1033) that the new head of the scandal-hit FBI, Robert Mueller, was appointed partly because of his alleged success in bringing charges against two Libyans for the Lockerbie bombing. As the *Eye* pointed out, the triumph of those charges was slightly spoiled when one of the two men was found not guilty, and the one convicted was obviously not guilty either.

A FAMILIAR current argument is that the reaction to the bombing of an airliner over Lockerbie in December 1988, and the police and intelligence hunt which followed, were a model of caution and consistency which could serve as a guide to the hunt for the terrorists who plotted the world trade centre bombing.

Thus the chief constable of Strathclyde, formerly chief constable of Dumfries and Galloway, went on television to enthuse about the careful and deliberate way in which his force reacted to the Lockerbie bombing, and Simon Jenkins in the *Times* of 26 September announced: "It has taken 12 years to bring to justice the bombers of the Lockerbie jet. Years of ineffective bombast had to be succeeded by years of diplomacy." Er... see above.

FREDERICK Forsyth reveals that in 1983 he thought of writing a thriller in which a fanatic crashed a hijacked plane into a skyscraper; he abandoned the book, however, for fear that the scheme "could be imitated by terrorists". Very selfless of him. But Forsyth – like almost everyone else in the world, apparently – has forgotten that the idea was already in the public domain by then.

On 22 February 1974 an unemployed American salesman named Samuel Joseph Byck, armed with a handgun, stormed the cockpit of a DC-9 at Washington International Airport and ordered the pilot to take off in the direction of Pennsylvania Avenue. Byck's plan was that at the last moment he would shoot the pilot, take the controls and crash straight into the White House, killing President Nixon and his staff (and everyone on the plane, including himself).

Byck, who had a long-standing grudge against the "corrupt" US government, was thwarted only by the fact that the chocks were still in place and the plane couldn't get to the runway. In his fury he shot both the pilot and co-pilot. Then, as police snipers stormed the cockpit, he turned the gun on himself.

The case, widely reported at the time, was mentioned again as recently as 1999 in Paul Elliott's book *Target for Terror – Political Assassins*. Byck also appears as a character in Stephen Sondheim's musical *Assassins*, which premiered in 1991 and has been performed regularly ever since. A Broadway production, due to open next month, has now been postponed. But on 5 September the *Tennessean* praised a "frequently hilarious" revival of the show in Nashville, paying particular tribute to "Gerald Graham's rib-tickling turn as Samuel Byck, who records nutty monologues to be sent to Leonard Bernstein and other celebrities before hijacking a jetliner and trying to crash it into Richard Nixon's White House... You can't stop giggling, even as the sight makes you realise how easy it is for disgruntled wackos everywhere to pick up a handgun and have a reasonable chance of killing the leader of the free world."

WOULD fewer people have died in New York had the World Trade Center been more robustly built? For understandable reasons, no one in America is yet asking the question, but it may have to be considered eventually if new skyscrapers are erected on the site.

One expert witness is the eminent septuagenarian architect Harry Seidler, an RIBA Gold Medal winner. In an interview with the Austrian paper *Kleine Zeitung*, reported briefly in the British *Architects' Journal*, he claims that the Empire State Building and Sears Tower would have withstood a head-on plane crash far better.

Seidler, who visited the twin towers while they were under construction, says: "It's the lightest thing I ever saw. I was almost speechless when I saw the elevator shaft and staircases were lined with plaster. They told me they were fireproof. The World Trade Centre was little better off than if it had been built out of cardboard sheets. With most buildings, the steel supports are coated with concrete; in the WTC they were only coated with plaster. The steel supports were only sprayed with asbestos, and in the heat which developed it's as soft as spaghetti. That's a terrible way of building."

Why was it done? Seidler points out that the towers were commissioned by the NY port authority. "They built on their own property, and at the same time issued all the permits to themselves. The whole thing was a matter of cost."

Street of Shame

"THE media has a responsibility not to do the terrorists' work for them," a *Sun* editorial warned last Wednesday. "Presenting rumour as fact and scaremongering is just what our enemies want. Downing Street was right to criticise some papers – not the *Sun* – for stating as fact that a chemical or biological attack was imminent."

Papers, no doubt, such as the one which reported two days earlier that "Osama bin Laden could be planning biological or chemical weapon attacks using crop-dusting planes... Crop dusters are used across America – and in Britain – to spread insecticides over vast areas of farmland. FBI chiefs believe bin Laden would not hesitate using them to spread chemical or biological weapons."

The source of this irresponsible scare-mongering was, er, the *Sun*.

A MOVING piece under Tony Blair's byline appeared in the weekly newspaper for British Asians, *Eastern Eye*, on Friday 21 September.

"Yesterday I visited New York... to see at first hand the appalling devastation..." it began, before reassuring Britain's Muslims that they had nothing to fear from any backlash in the UK: "Blaming Islam for what happened in the US would be... as wrong as blaming Christianity for sectarian violence in Northern Ireland."

The article was impressive not only for its prime ministerial wisdom and compassion. *Eastern Eye* had gone to press on Tuesday evening and was on sale on Thursday morning – before the Rev Tony's plane had touched down in New York. And in the event there wasn't time for him to visit "ground zero" at all, so his view of the devastation was no better than that of any Briton who had stayed home and watched the television.

But, like any good hack, Britain's most productive journalist clearly does not let the facts stand in the way of a good story. And, like all hard-working freelances, he knows how to recycle his material – over the week the same "exclusive" article appeared, with different intros, in Pakistan's *Daily Jang*, the *Times* and the *People*.

"They may not frighten the enemy, but by God they frighten me"

HISTORIC times demand historic editorials; and so *Observer* editor Roger Alton asked the eminent Will Hutton to write the paper's leader on World War Three and related matters.

Alas, the Great Stakeholder's text could not be published without intensive surgery, as Alton realised when he read Hutton's first sentence: "Recent events in New York have taken terrorism on to a new plane..."

JOHN Sutherland's piece in the *Guardian* on 19 September, about the use of language in the World Trade Center aftermath, contained a short rant against Michael Gove's use of the term "Guardianistas" in the *Times*.

Sutherland claimed this was railing against the perceived effeminacy of *Grauniad*-types – because it would be correct to end general references in the masculine -o ending. Ditto Portillista (ooh, say the Guardianistas, that's homophobia!) Apparently we only say "Zapatista", because it refers to the party, the Partida Zapatista.

Er, wrong. The Spanish word for party is *partido*, a very masculine word if ever there was one. So it doesn't refer to the party. And nouns and adjectives that end in -ista, like futbolista (footballer) and, er, periodista (journalist) are invariable to gender. Sadly, Sutherland failed to see the wood for his liberal high dudgeon.

ONE of the silliest items ever in the *Grauniad*'s "Corrections and Clarifications" column appeared on 26 September in the form of an apparent apology to the Taliban for having suggested that it profited from the drug trade.

"In a report... we said: 'Today Afghanistan is the world's largest opium producer...' In fact the Taliban implemented a ban on poppy production in July last year. In April this year an international team from the United Nations Drug Control Programme confirmed the success of the Taliban's efforts to eradicate the cultivation of the opium poppy."

Could this be the same Taliban which, in the *Grauniad* two days later, was described as having "recently rescinded a ban on opium growing it had imposed last year under western pressure..."?

As far back as February this year the *Sunday Telegraph* reported that the poppy ban was "a cynical effort to win UN recognition and with it the lifting of sanctions and the restoration of foreign aid". If the tactic failed, the paper said prophetically, "poppy production will soon resume... in the meantime, the regime is believed to be taking advantage of soaring heroin prices – up four-fold in a year – to release controlled supplies from their large stockpiles of the roughly refined drug on to the market..."

Last week an Oxfam official told the *New Scientist* that, although the Taliban had indeed enforced its Just-Say-No-or-we'll-cut-your-throat edict on terrified farmers for a while, its stocks of heroin and opium were so huge it was able to dominate the global heroin business and it is now "set to allow growing to resume". Perhaps one of the *Grauniad*'s celebrated corrections of a correction would be in order...

"ALL our lives have changed forever," wrote Bill Greig in Richard Desmond's Sunday Express on 16 September. He complained that the affluent west had become absorbed with trivia and obsessed with the lives of the rich and famous, and wondered if this would now change.

"Could it be that all those who watched lives tumble into the rubble of Manhattan will now have a different perspective?" he asked, concluding: "If we have a more thinking world then those who died needlessly might just have given all of us a better understanding of the meaning of life. It is time, as St Paul said, to put away childish things."

The message clearly hasn't penetrated another Desmond paper, the *Daily Star*, whose front cover on 27 September was graced by the fake breast model Jordan, legs akimbo and accompanied by the headline: "JORDAN HAILS NEW YORK".

Inside, the tabloid that taste forgot ran a picture of her sprawled over a New York taxi clad in skimpy red PVC underwear. Then, remembering that scores and scores of fire-fighters had died in the blistering heat of the collapsed World Trade Centre, the *Star* promised: "There's more... next week we'll have more shots that will have the whole country talking. You can see them ONLY in your soaraway *Daily Star*. You'll need asbestos gloves just to turn the pages." Nice...

NO HACK has been more gung-ho in recent weeks than Bruce "Brute" Anderson of the *Spectator* and *Independent*: he wants the west to bomb the Afghan regime to smithereens. "The Taliban not only provide a haven for terrorists," he writes. "They run a brutal and incompetent regime; there is no worse government in the world."

Clearly this cannot be the same Brute who, only a few days before the attack on the World Trade Center, told colleagues at the *Spectator* how much he admired the Taliban. "They don't let girlies get in the way of the boys," he explained to a secretary. "You should be at home, in a servile role." As he elaborated on his opinion of "girlies" the poor secretary eventually burst into tears.

Not long ago the magazine's publisher, loaded American socialite Kimberley Fortier, banned Anderson from the *Spectator* office for three months after he drunkenly told her that "you're a cunt who hasn't been fucked for six years". Almost every woman in the building has been on the receiving end of similar compliments. In June editor Boris Johnson tried to sack the Brute – only to be forced to rehire him as "geopolitical correspondent" following interventions from Anderson's two remaining friends, Lord Cranborne and *Spectator* director Algy Cluff. Whether they share his high opinion of the Taliban is not known.

HERE are two contrasting descriptions of the same event, the first from Sam Leith in the *Daily Telegraph*, the second from the 3am column in the *Daily Moron*.

"JAGGER'S SNUB: Mick Jagger presented himself for canapé scoffing duties at the French ambassador's residence, after the première of Jean-Pierre Jeunet's new film, *Amélie*.

"'I was so excited to see Mick Jagger arrive at my party that I ran across the room, grabbed his hand, and introduced myself,' says the film's beautiful French leading lady, Audrey Tautou. 'Unfortunately he hadn't seen the film, so he had no idea who I was and just walked off. Five minutes later, he left'."

Meanwhile at the *Mirror*... "MICK JAGGER isn't one to let a pretty girl go unnoticed. The Rolling Stone homed in on Audrey Tautou, who stars in the film Amélie, at a post-premiere bash... Mick enjoyed an intimate chat with the petite beauty but she managed to resist his charms."

The explanation is that no one wants to talk to the *Moron* girls, who are reduced to standing in the corner at parties trying to guess what's happening on the other side of the room.

"SICKENING" was how the *News of the World* described the behaviour of three Chelsea footballers fined £130,000 for their drunken antics in front of grieving tourists waiting to return to the US in the wake of the terrorist attacks. But what was the response of the *Screws* editor Rebekah Wade to the US tragedy?

Three hours after two planes flew into the twin towers of the World Trade Center causing them to collapse, all Wade appeared to be concerned about was her latest Harry Potter stunt. In the run-up to the film due out later this autumn, Wade thought it would be a hoot to persuade one of her reporters to change his name by deed poll and dress up as the school-boy wizard, so he could write an article under the by-line Harry Potter.

Charles Begley was the unfortunate hack chosen for this task, and at 5pm on 11 September Wade sent a message asking him to come to her office dressed as Potter. When Begley turned up in his own clothes, deputy editor Andy Coulson who was also present demanded to know where his costume was and insisted he wore it to the morning news conference the following day. Begley declined to do so and for the past two weeks he has been on stress-related sick leave.

Wade has taken this so personally she commissioned a *Screws* investigation, which appeared on 30 September, into how easy it is to obtain a medical certificate and sign off work sick with stress.

WHEN "the world's most brilliant astrologer" Jonathan Cainer joined the *Mirror* in March he introduced Team Cainer, a group of New Age writers who would spice up his horoscopes with reports on things that go bump in the night, including a weekly column on "Mysteries" by one John Michell.

In his introduction Cainer described Michell as "the world's number one expert on the Pyramids, Stonehenge and crop circles", and explained that he would be "shedding light on unexplained phenomena every Thursday". On Thursday 20 September Michell turned his steely gaze on the unexplained phenomenon of the supposed Nostradamus prediction of the attack on the World Trade Center.

"In the year of the new century and nine months,
From the sky will come a great King of Terror,
The sky will burn at forty-five degrees...
Fire approaches the new city etc."

"That is a fair description of what happened," wrote Michell, "but it is a lie and a hoax, devised some years ago by a student trying to prove how easy it was to fool people. It worked." It did indeed, and one of those who was fooled was Michell himself. In his original column he pondered how amazingly accurate the lines of Nostradamus had turned out to be, until someone at the *Moron* spotted that the world's number one expert on mysteries had fallen for what had already been widely reported to be a hoax, and his copy was hastily rewritten.

JUST FANCY THAT!

"The period since the tragedy has been characterised by a retreat from banality. Editors and broadcasters have rightly judged that their audience are in no mood for the niblets of trivia that used to form their staple diet."

— Charlotte Raven, page 9, *Guardian G2*, 25 September.

"To Dye For: What made Nigella Lawson decide to go blonde?"

— Headline on page 8, *Guardian G2*, 25 September.

English solicitors hope to inspire Ugandan ethics

Law Society Gazette

"I'm off to Afghanistan"

THE intelligence gathering skills of former MI5 officer David Shayler appear to be sadly diminished of late.

The day after the terrorist attacks on America he wrote an article for the *Mirror* explaining what MI5 would be doing in the wake of the tragedy. "There will be meetings of the heads of the armed services, MI5, MI6, GCHQ, senior Metropolitan police officers, foreign secretary Robin Cook, home secretary Jack Straw, defence secretary Geoff Hoon and Tony Blair."

No doubt foreign secretary Jack Straw and home secretary David Blunkett were fascinated to read about these top secret meetings in the *Moron*, where no one spotted the errors.

Warballs

"Bin Laden does not even have to speak. His icon so potently embodies his cause. The irony is that if children were asked to draw Christ, they would draw Bin Laden – not just because of how he dresses, but for his whole demeanour. His is the look of Christ-like suffering, with the intense sexual ambiguity that goes with it. He looks like someone who has suffered an earlier psychological wound... He looks like a victim, languidly feminine, but with his gun over his shoulder he viciously repudiates this femininity and embraces machismo."

— Ros Coward, *Guardian*, 25 September.

"Scouts from the borough enjoyed the views from the top of the 110-storey World Trade Centre three weeks ago. Last night they were coming to terms with its horrific destruction."

— Main front-page story in *Hendon & Finchley Times*, 13 September, focusing on the real victims before also mentioning that, er, a few other people were rather more directly affected.

"There are reconstructions of the World Trade Center available from the designer Constantin Boym. The miniature buildings, part of a line of objects called 'Souvenirs for the end of the century', made before the terrorist attack are called 'Buildings of disaster'. They include the Twin Towers (after the 1993 bombing), the Three Mile Island nuclear plant and the bombed federal building of Oklahoma City."

— *The Art Newspaper.*

"Bits and Pieces" by the Dave Clark Five; "In the Air Tonight" by Phil Collins; "A World Without Love" by Peter and Gordon; "Morning Has Broken" by Cat Stevens; "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by the Hollies; "A Sign of the Times" by Petula Clark; "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" by the Beatles; "Imagine" by John Lennon; "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin; "Ruby Tuesday" by the Rolling Stones; "Mother" by Pink Floyd; "Wonderful World" by Herman's Hermits.

— Some of the British hits on a list of "potentially inappropriate songs" sent by Clear Channel to its 1,100 American radio stations after the attack on the World Trade Centre.

EVER more curious becomes the story of the science leg of the three "pseudo-inquiries" set up by our Beloved Leader to help cover up the unprecedented shambles he has made of the foot-and-mouth (FMD) catastrophe, which is still ongoing. This is the one handed over to the Royal Society, chaired by Sir Brian Follett, fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), to look into future handling of animal disease epidemics.

The operative word of course is "future", because the last thing Tony Blair wants is anyone looking too closely into the handling of one past epidemic in particular – ie FMD 2001. This is because the biggest cock-up of all was giving control of the crisis to Professor Roy Anderson's famous computer, which led to the killing of some three million healthy animals under the "contiguous cull", with the result that five months later the killing is still going on while the disease has become endemic.

Even the man responsible for appointing Prof Anderson FRS as mastermind of the government's FMD strategy, the chief scientist Prof David King FRS, is said now to be having private second thoughts about whether this was entirely wise. Of course neither of them – not King the "surface chemist" nor Anderson the computer modeller – had any veterinary experience. But King was beguiled by the way Anderson's skills were talked up by their mutual friend Sir John Krebs FRS, head of the Food Standards Agency. And it was Krebs who organised Anderson's hotline to all the Maffia data, enabling Anderson's computer to make such a convincing case that it would run the FMD crisis a great deal more efficiently than Nick Brown's Maffia (admittedly not all that difficult).

So, if one of the first things any independent inquiry into the handling of FMD would want to investigate was the shambles perpetrated by one leading FRS at the instigation of two others, who better to inquire into it all than… the RS itself, under the benign gaze of yet another FRS, Sir Brian Follett!

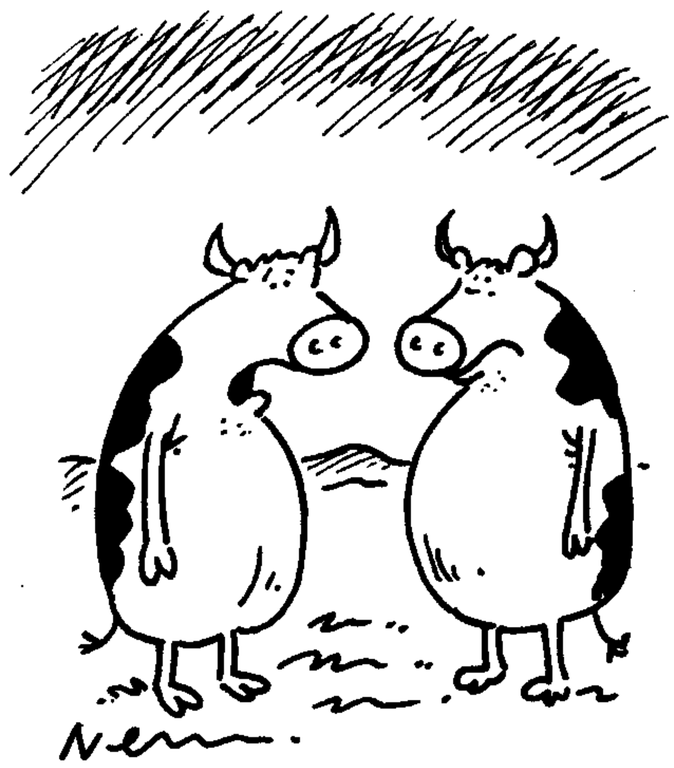
Sir Brian's qualifications to carry out a fearlessly independent investigation do not stop there, however. If Prof Anderson's patron, Prof King, was appointed chief scientist on the advice of his predecessor, Prof Sir Robert May, who is currently president of the RS, it turns out that May and Anderson were also old friends and colleagues having co-authored two books together.

Sir Robert is RS professor at the Oxford zoology department, where he was Anderson's boss and where their other old friend Prof Krebs still works. And guess who is another visiting professor at the Oxford zoology department: the very man who, as pure chance would have it, has now been entrusted with the RS's fearless investigation, Sir Brian Follett!

Even here the wondrous chain of coincidence does not cease because we can now see who is to assist Sir Brian in his fearless task, as members of his 15-strong committee. One is Dr Angela Maclean, who just happens to work at the Oxford zoology department. Another is Prof Patrick Bateson FRS, a colleague of Anderson, King, Follett and Krebs as the RS's biological secretary; and yet another is Ms Suzi Leather. She just happens to be a close colleague of Prof Krebs as his "deputy chair" at the Foods Standards Agency.

Perhaps the one thing on which Ladbroke's would be unwise to lay odds in these uncertain times is the possibility that Sir Brian's committee might come up with any criticism of the part played in cocking up the FMD epidemic by professors Anderson and King (FRS, of course.)

'Muckspreader'



"I hope foot and mouth gets me before the germ warfare"

LABOUR CONFERENCE SPECIAL

THOUGH the September attacks took the edge off the anti-privatisation campaign, the corporate colonisation of Labour's party conference in Brighton went ahead barely unchanged.

Health secretary Alan Milburn's team led the way in buisness sponsorship, barely speaking on the fringe without the backing of a drug firm or insurance company.

On conference Monday Milburn's schedule included "substance or spin: will the new NHS deliver", a fringe meeting including "finger buffet and wine" paid for by drug giant Merck Sharpe & Dohme. Milburn was also scheduled to speak on "towards stakeholder healthcare" for the Social Market Foundation, sponsored by Norwich Union, a firm which would love to supplement the NHS by private insurance. Milburn was also due to speak for the Fabians on "reforming the NHS", paid for by drug and GM giant Aventis; but this meeting fell victim to the early closure of conference.

Health under secretary Hazel Blears kept up the corporate quota with a marathon of business-backed meetings. She was timetabled to speak on "empowering patients", sponsored by Aventis; and she had an appointment to address "lifestyle: can government alone reduce health inequalities" sponsored by Boots the Chemist. She also had a meeting on "health and poverty" (with buffet lunch) paid for by drug firm Pfizer, which booked health minister Jacqui Smith to speak on "mental health", although Andrew Love MP had to step in at the last minute.

Pfizer timetabled health minister John Hutton to speak on Alzheimer's. And another drug giant, Roche, booked him to talk about "delivering radical solutions in the NHS: Exploring partnerships in healthcare" – a long-winded way of describing privatisation.

LABOUR's top brass certainly got their political priorities right on the vexed question of Europe.

Minister for Europe Peter Hain spoke on "Making a success of EU enlargement" for a Centre For European Reform fringe meeting sponsored by privatised water firm United Utilities. The firm's chief executive John Roberts was candid about why he was there: his firm wants to move east and build on its success of privatising the water in Bulgaria.

Other leading Labour lights also followed the business lead on Europe. Peter Mandelson, Blair adviser Roger Liddle and GMB boss John Edmonds were booked to speak on "Should Europe have a social policy" for another Centre For European Reform fringe meeting, this time sponsored by the accountants at KPMG.

Robin Cook had his say too at a fringe meeting called "Europe – winning the argument". This was sponsored by Euro lobbyists Adamson BSMG, whose clients include chemical firms who want to avoid tighter European standards.

FIRST prize for corporate cobblers at conference went to Colin Skellet, chief executive of Wessex Water.

On conference Sunday the firm sponsored a Fabian fringe meeting called "A Radical Second Term" with Robin Cook, Blair adviser Charlie Leadbetter and Polly Toynbee agonising about how to be progressive yet sensible.

Wessex Water is used to pouring cash into Labour (it is owned by Enron, a long-term "new" Labour funder); and in return for his cash Skellet was also allowed to address the delegates. He pleaded with them to "start talking about the environment and sustainability – because we are in danger of losing the plot".

As *Eye* readers will know, losing the environmental plot is a speciality at Wessex Water, which has a record history for fines following pollution incidents involving spreading filth and muck over the waterways of the South-West.

PFI UPDATE

THE campaign against privatisation in the public sector appears to be an early victim of collateral damage in the war against terrorism.

On the day of the New York attacks the prime minister left the TUC conference in Brighton early and cancelled his planned speech on privatisation. Given the text, perhaps this was just as well.

Amid the rhetoric Tony Blair singled out the Bishop Auckland hospital private finance initiative (PFI) as an example of "where use of the private sector makes sense in the provision of a better public service".

ER, this of course is the £54m hospital rebuilding scheme that will actually *cut* beds from 375 to 308. Admitting this to the Commons health select committee was so embarrassing for the department of health that it promptly set about massaging the figures. However, even by including "day beds", the department could still only get the number of beds up to 347.

The scheme hands the running of hospital buildings for the next 30 years to a consortium of cleaning firm ISS and bankers at Charterhouse. ISS delightedly told its shareholders that the privatisation "is expected to generate an annual turnover of £1.8m" for the consortium. Charterhouse of course built its profile in the city by making millions out of the "Porterbrook" scheme, one of the worst public rip-offs to emerge from the privatisation of British Rail (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*).

BISHOP Auckland hospital chiefs must also have been relieved the prime minister did not deliver his speech: the Curse of Blair always seems to doom any privatisation he mentions.

During the election campaign he singled out the Glasgow Schools refurbishment as a fine example of "public private partnerships". As we pointed out at the time, the scheme handed millions to a private firm run by Tories in return for closed swimming pools and smaller classes. Since Tony Blair's speech things have got even worse. This September the ceiling fell in on one class at Shawlands Academy and a child was taken to hospital; builders set fire to the roof of St Roch's Primary, leading to an evacuation; and at Holyrood school, promoted as a jewel in the crown of "Project 2002", three computers burst into flames and light bulbs exploded following a power surge. All 2,200 pupils were evacuated. The health and safety executive is investigating and the consortium is set to be fined.

AN important player in the row over the effective closure of Kidderminster hospital and the reduction of beds in the new PFI-built hospital at Worcester (which led to the sensational election of Richard Taylor as independent MP for Wyre Forest) was Brian McCloskey, director of public health at Worcestershire health authority.

In an angry letter to the *British Medical Journal* in October last year, Mr McCloskey

accused the *BMJ* of being consistently biased against PFI. As proof, he said the journal's claims about "the reduction in bed numbers" in the new Worcester hospital were "inaccurate".

Er, no they weren't, according to a new report on health services in Worcester. This claims that "the major challenges in delivering the capacity to support the NHS plan" include the fact that the new hospital in Worcester due to open in April 2002 "had a funded establishment of beds that is 90 fewer than the current Worcester bed establishment".

The report is prepared on behalf of the health authority by one Brian McCloskey, director of public health for the Worcestershire health authority.

HP SAUCE

CRIME minister Keith Bradley MP was guest of honour at the "presentation evening" held two weeks ago at Parrs Wood school in his Manchester-Withington constituency. He delivered an ecstatic speech hailing the school – which was given "beacon status" and is now a "technology college" – as the perfect example of "new" Labour's education ideas, and raved about the brilliant standards achieved.

Oddly, however, Bradley forgot to mention that he removed his own son from the school last year and sent him instead to the fee-paying Manchester Grammar. In a statement at the time he explained that "the decision has been taken in the best interests of our son's future". Parrs Wood may represent all that's best and brightest in Blairism, but it is apparently still not good enough for the offspring of the Blairite elite.

ANGLIA Polytechnic University has just appointed a new chancellor, the Conservative peer Lord Ashcroft. Following his investiture at a ceremony on Saturday 10 November, Lord Ashcroft will act as the poly's figurehead, officiating at graduation and other ceremonies.

Anglia's decision to honour the great Belizean is surely unconnected to a new centre for business and management studies currently under construction at the poly. One generous benefactor who has donated £5m to the project is, er, Lord Ashcroft. No doubt he is already looking forward to presiding over the opening of the Michael A Ashcroft Building, the flagship building of the Ashcroft International Business School.

THE THINGS THEY SAY

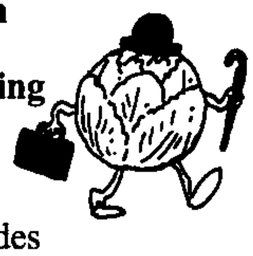
NOT every MP in europhile "new" Labour is in favour of handing monetary control to a European Central Bank.

In an interview a while ago in the "Cash" section of the *Observer*, MP Diane Abbott, for example, described her experience of taking the governor of the Bank of England and his cronies to task in the eight years she sat on the treasury select committee.

"Matters of banking and finance are too important to be left to white men," she said. Right on!

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

SO MUCH for the European Union's plans to combat international terrorism by pooling information via Europol, the EU's police agency.



Having bungled the central information network which includes data on Islamic terrorism, Europol's deputy director David Valls-Russell appeared on BBC television at the beginning of September to say what an efficient system it was. Valls-Russell, a former Kent superintendent, was speaking just three months after Dutch police had raided his office in The Hague and placed him under investigation for apparent improper misuse of computer software. (Operatives had apparently been setting up investigations willy-nilly, with no overall control.)

Despite the horrified response of Europol director Jurgen Storbek, who described the misuse as an "unprecedented fiasco" for the EU intelligence services, EU justice ministers agreed at an emergency meeting on 19 September to share even more of their sensitive information with Europol. Hopefully there will be no repeat of the embarrassing events of three years ago when an EU official in the EU's separate Schengen information system was caught selling data to organised crime groups.

Meanwhile, as France and Germany press for a more powerful Europol and Chris Patten, European commissioner for external relations, calls for the extradition of terrorists, it should be remembered that Britain is the only EU country so far to have ratified the 1999 UN convention for the suppression of financing of terrorism.

The French authorities have been busy – but in another area: suppressing the right of French journalists to protect their sources under article 109 of the 1993 French penal code and arresting them for doing their jobs.

Last June the French appeal court upheld the arrest of two *Express* writers. In addition, Agence Gamma photographer Jean Pierre Rey and Canal Plus reporter Dominique Paganelli got in trouble for contacting Corsican nationalists. Rey was jailed and Paganelli was arrested.

IN A SEPARATE development, European commission plans for "network Europe" to ensure "European law was of the highest quality" are even more alarming.

The plans, put forward in a white paper and presented to MEPs in Strasbourg, give unprecedented power to EU officials to make regulations without being scrutinised. The report, *The European Union and its Citizens: a matter of Democracy*, was presented by commission president Romano Prodi. It dismissed the European council of ministers as "opaque" and unable to reconcile conflicts.

Instead Prodi announced that a new "thorough… European Democracy" would use regulations instead of directives that would by-pass national EU legislatures and parliaments. This revolutionary idea of European "openness and accountability" went unnoticed by the Commons EU scrutiny committee which appeared to know nothing about it. So much for openness.

> Accordingly, the responsibility of criminal defence lawyers is very specific and specialised—they must take all possible steps to raise a reasonable doubt about the client's innocence.
>
> *New Law Journal*

A SAUDI AMBASSADOR WRITES...

Sir,

Let a crisis of any sort start, and the Saudi-bashing starts in earnest.

My first crisis [*after arriving as ambassador here nine years ago*] started with the appearance of a Saudi dissident in London. He took the British journalist establishment for the longest ride in history. He was lionised by the leftist liberals. Even feminist reporters found him "cute". He became the hottest item in town. *Private Eye* invited him to one of their drunken dos (needless to say, he drank nothing stronger than camel's milk). He even made it to *Have I Got News For You*. Here, finally, was a man who is going to reshape Saudi Arabia in the liberal journalist's image.

All this changed when he started talking. His admirers discovered that he became a dissident not because he thought Saudi Arabia too conservative, but too liberal. I understand he is no longer invited to *Private Eye* lunches. Nowadays he writes "fatwas" with a like-minded creature, decreeing that anybody supporting America in the war against terrorism should be slaughtered, in a halal manner no doubt.

Then came the two British nurses charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia. Saudi-bashing began in earnest. No British subject, but no British subject, could be guilty of any crime, but any crime, in Saudi Arabia. Tens of pages were devoted to the barbarous Saudis, their barbarous laws, their barbarous courts, and the barbarous conspiracy to frame two innocent modern-day Florence Nightingales. The two girls came, and the truth gradually came out. Being a diplomat by profession, if not by nature, I shall say no more about this particular case.

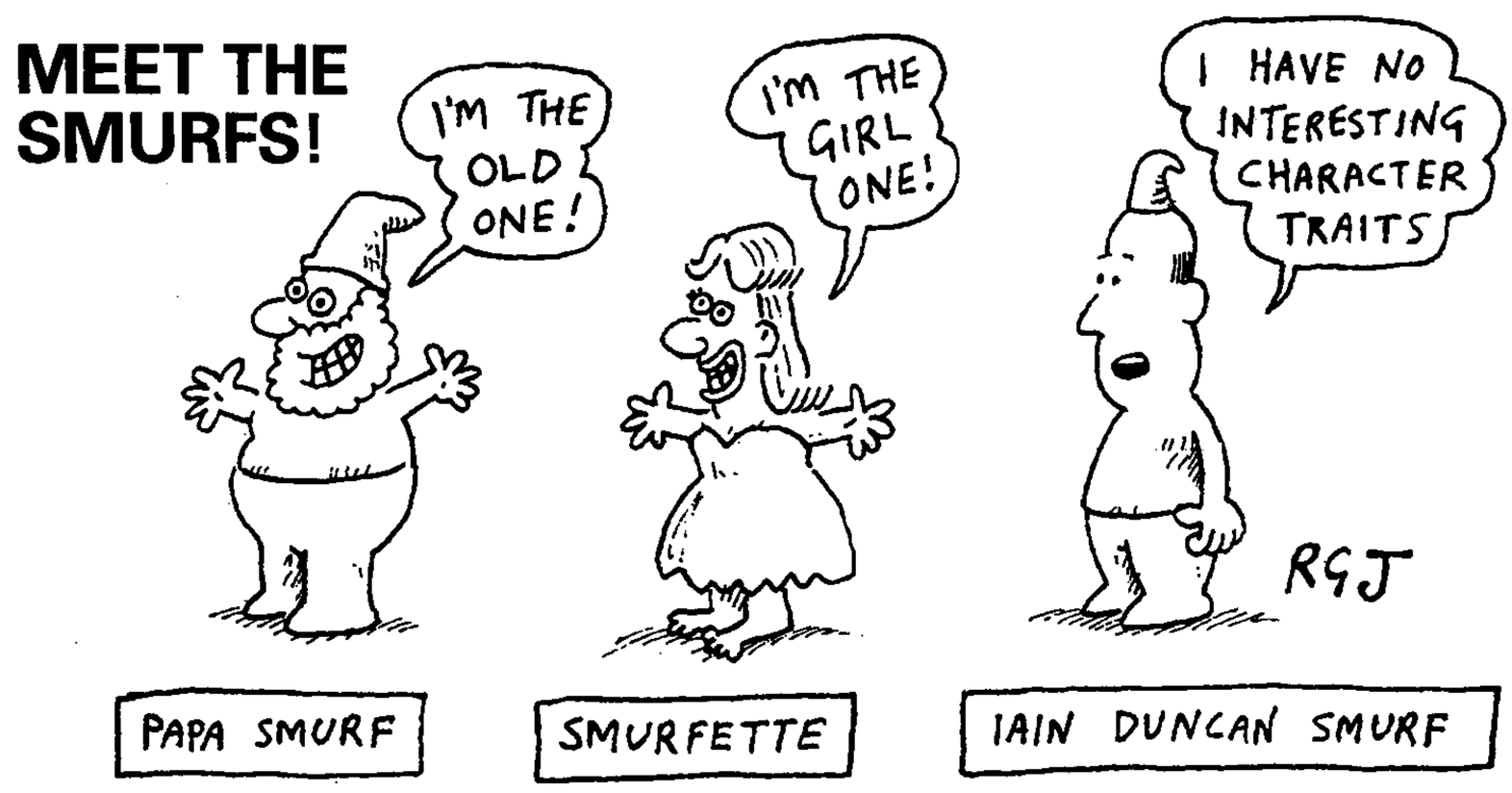
Nowadays I am going through the "Mother of all Crises". A journalist claims that Saudi Arabia created the "Wahhabi Taliban". Never mind that the Taliban are Hanafis with no affinity whatsoever to the Hanbali movement called Wahhabism. Wahhabi it must be. Never mind that if we were in the business of creating governments we would have come up with a government more cooperative with us. Create the Taliban we did.

Another journalist expressed the opinion that Saudi Arabia subsidises Osama bin Laden. Never mind that his Saudi citizenship was stripped away years ago. Never mind that his family disowned him. Subsidise him we did. A third journalist came up with a real goodie: all suicide bombers are Wahhabi. Never mind that our Mufti condemned suicide bombers. Never mind that most of these "folks" never even heard of Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdul Wahab. So, the evil Saudis influence all manner of folks to die in firey infernos. Flattering in a very grotesque way but untrue.

Not to be outdone, a journalist predicted that Osama bin Laden, having destroyed most of the planet, will finally fulfil his real goal: returning to Saudi Arabia where he is going to be hailed as the Mahdi. Nostradamus, take cover!

GHAZI ALGOSAIBI,

Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, London.



MEDIA NEWS

THE WINDSOR WAR

EDWARD WINDSOR'S hapless cameramen, caught spying on Prince William at St Andrew's University, reveal just how desperate Uncle Ed is for a scoop to boost the fortunes of his flagging Ardent production outfit.

He had failed to secure a straightforward deal to film Wills in his first weeks at St Andrew's after both William and Prince Charles refused to co.-operate. Then he lost a project to make a personal biography of the Queen when Brenda discovered it was intended to be sold as a tribute for use after her death. A not amused situation ensued.

Perhaps Edward should hire his wife for a bit of PR advice. Or perhaps not.

MEANWHILE Edward's standing in the United States goes from strength to, er, less strong.

Back on 25 August 1999, the American entertainment paper *Variety* carried the headline "Prince plans paparazzi doc: Edward recruits Cruise, Pitt for Ardent TV project." As *Variety* had it: "Provisionally titled 'Stalkarazzi,' the show will reportedly feature both Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt and will contain a controversial section on the death of Princess Diana."

The world is still waiting to see it, of course, even assuming Cruise and Pitt genuinely signed up to the project rather than simply in Ardent's fevered imagination. How recent events at St Andrew's are covered in the US will also be interesting, as will the reaction of Edward's agents there, the mighty William Morris Agency.

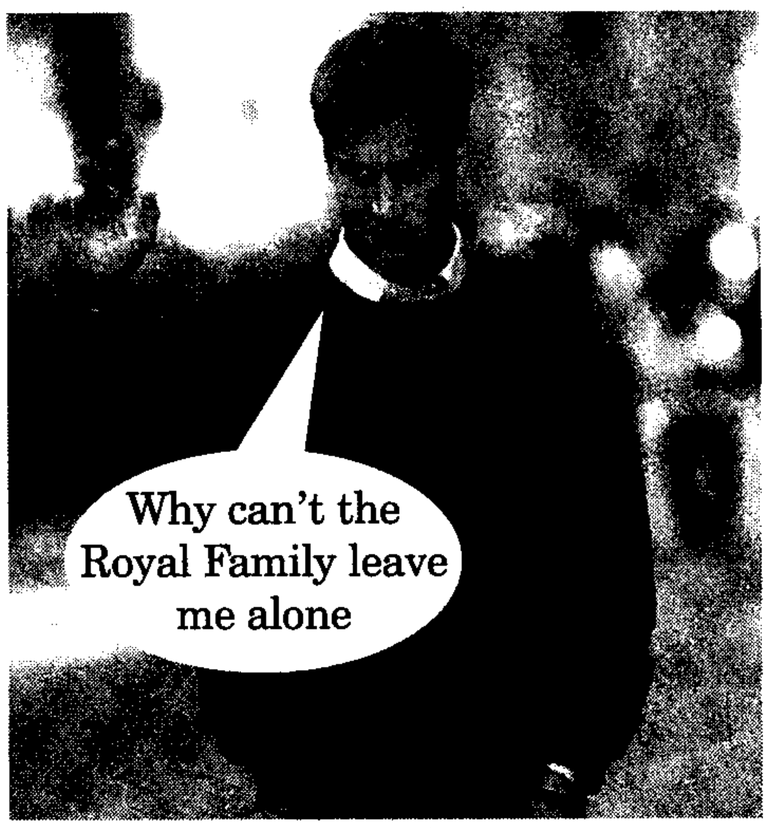
Although his family connections open the occasional door in Los Angeles, William Morris provides the dollar-coated red carpet. Signing Ardent probably seemed a good idea a few years ago, when Morris was expanding in London. But those days are long gone; and if Edward continues to provide bad publicity (and negligible commission income) so might his status as a client... which would finally finish off Ardent.

ANDREW "Brillo Pad" Neill's hard-won status as rector of St Andrew's university obliged him to put aside a lifetime of reticence last week and appear on as many news outlets as possible to denounce the paparazzi antics of Prince Edward's company Ardent and its pursuit of Edinburgh fresher Prince William.

Neill was surely right to attack puerile media intrusion, but he stopped short of criticising one of the worst offenders, a website called www.peoplenews.com. This financially fragile internet site exists solely to provide gossip about celebs, and especially royalty. By last Thursday, when Neill started pontificating, peoplenews had 75 items about William alone, including a "People Card" fact file about the prince who is "Dream Boat Willy to classmates, Wheels to friends and Your Royal Highness to staff."

The site went on to note that "difficult and domineering" William is usually "seen with his happenin' royal posse which includes a 24-hour hardman (the royal protection), debutante Davina Duckworth-Chad, family friend Edward van Cutsem and well-behaved royal cousins Peter and Zara Philips." A large dose of gossip, rumour and invention then followed about the Windsor teen who apparently hangs out at "London's usual Sloane spots: Jak's, Crazy Larry's, the K-Bar or Mimmo D'ischia."

All of which must have come as a profound shock to one of the founders of peoplenews and its non-executive chairman, Andrew Neill.



PLUGGED IN

"SO who needs BBC anyway?" demanded the *Sun*'s outraged TV news editor Emily Smith on Wednesday 19 September, describing viewers' fury at the Beeb's coverage of the US crisis, following the controversial post-WTC edition of *Question Time* and the appearance on BBC Breakfast News of a militant Muslim leader calling for a holy war on America.

"Now fed-up Brits are switching to TV networks with American links," wrote Smith. "Both CNN International and Sky TV have been tapping into their American counterparts CNN and Fox TV for news feeds."

The proof of this massive switchover is clouded in mystery. "There are no figures available," a Sky spokesman is quoted as saying, "but we know more people are now using the facility to switch over themselves." He did not explain exactly how they have reached this conclusion, presumably by extra-sensory perception. Sky, of course, is 37 percent owned by News Corporation, the parent company of the *Currant Bun*.

The Sky News internet site, meanwhile, reported that unprecedented levels of Brits turned to the internet for news on the terrorist attacks: "The sites of the leading global news networks – such as Sky, CNN and the BBC – all jumped into the top 30 of the most popular websites in the country." Giving itself yet another slap on the back, the Sky News report continued: "Most leading news services found the increased pressure too much to bear, crashing or slowing to a crawl. According to renowned IT news site The Register, only Sky News and Ananova coped with the demands of hundreds of thousands of internet users."

DUMB BRITAIN

The Weakest Link, BBC2

Anne Robinson: Which famous artist painted the Mona Lisa?
Contestant: Frank Bough.

Family Fortunes, Challenge TV

Les Dennis: Name a Parisian landmark.
Contestant (*playing for Big Money*): Hawaii.

See Hear, BBC2

Presenter: What country does the spiritual leader the Dalai Lama come from?
Contestant: Scotland.

Steve Wright's Big Quiz, BBC Radio 2

Wright: What political party is Alex Salmond the former leader of?
Contestant: The National Front.

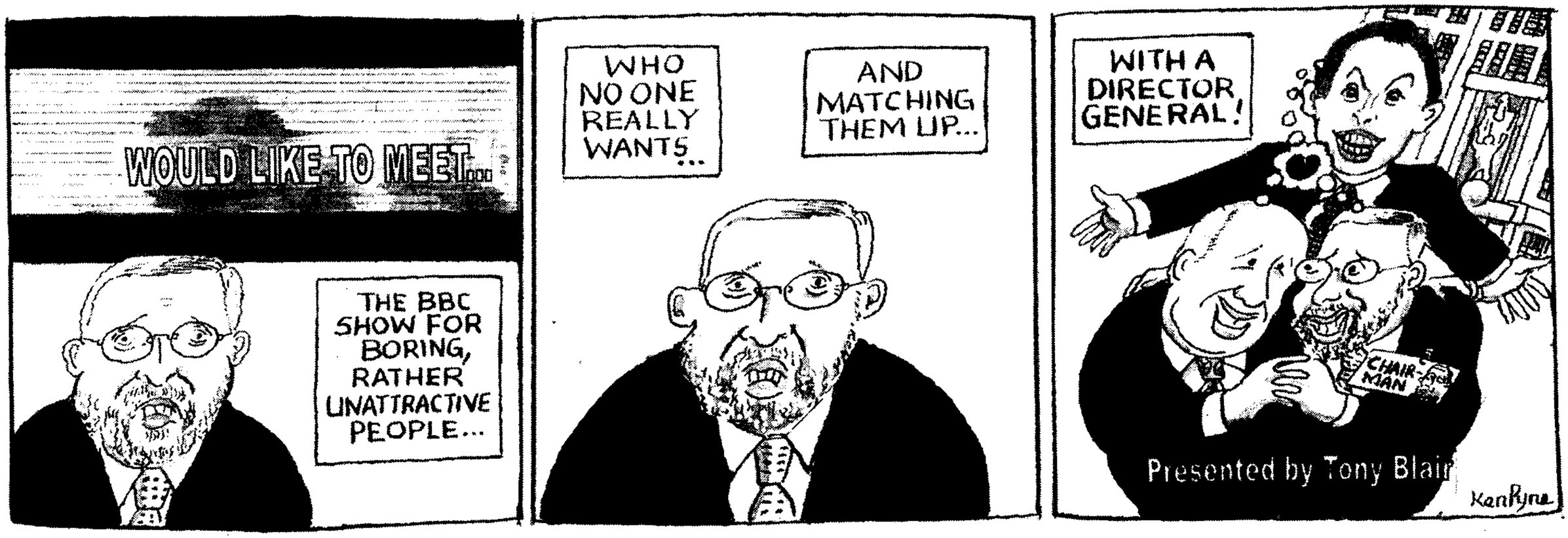
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Fleet' – that's the second line, isn't it?"

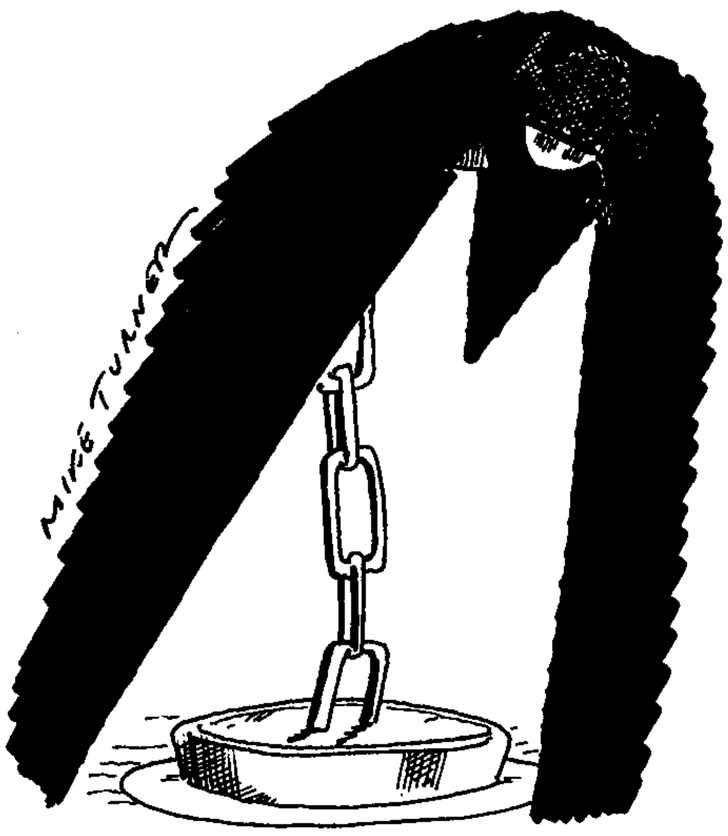
—Nicky "Thicky" Campbell, *Radio Five Live*

One of Hollywood's leading studios has been accused of hypocrisy for withdrawing too soon from a deal with a condom manufacturer.

Grauniad


WOULD LIKE TO MEET...
THE BBC SHOW FOR BORING, RATHER UNATTRACTIVE PEOPLE...
WHO NO ONE REALLY WANTS...
AND MATCHING THEM UP...
WITH A DIRECTOR GENERAL!
CHAIR-MAN
Presented by Tony Blair
Ken Pyne

THE BLUE PLANET



"You're not going to believe what we've found down here, David..."

WHILE few facts are making it on to television news channels in the United States at the moment, there are plenty of opportunities for CNN and NBC to use slo-mo images of planes crashing into buildings to promote their brands.

Meanwhile CNN's chief medical correspondent managed to terrify half the country by saying: "I would not discourage people from buying gas masks"; and another hack advised citizens to "ensure that they keep three days worth of supplies with them at all times". Great news for K Mart.

But there were other "scoops" CNN was less keen to run. When CNN Live splashed the news that the Federal Aviation Authority was considering grounding crop-dusting aircraft (or nerve gas sprayers, as they're known in terrorist circles), an anxious nation was told to wait for "all the details in *Time* magazine tomorrow" – *Time* and CNN, of course, both being AOL Time Warner companies.

ANY company thinking of setting up a new technology venture would do well to steer clear of Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP, Derek Wyatt. The latest firm to suffer from the curse of this "new" Labour MP is the Einstein Channel.

Wyatt is non-executive chairman of the multi-media group whose directors have recently put the company up for sale because of a dramatic fall in its share price from a high of 47.5p to a low of 0.13p.

In March the *Eye* reported on the collapse of the World Internet Forum, a political "web" summit set up by Wyatt two years previously, leaving debts of £830,000 (*Eye 1024*). Before winning a seat in parliament, Wyatt was a Labour councillor in the London borough of Haringey and a chair of the trustees of Alexandra Palace. During his time there the council failed in its £100,000 millennium bid to construct a digital library at Ally Pally and turn the sprawling building into "the centre of the European information highway".

Wyatt was sharply criticised by the ensuing district auditor's report into the fiasco which left Haringey council facing a debt of £50m.

JUST FANCY THAT!

"In wartime, truth is always the first casualty."
— Iain Macwhirter, page 1, *Sunday Herald* review supplement, 23 September.

"It is freedom, not truth, which is the first casualty in wartime."
— Iain Macwhirter, page 23, *Sunday Herald* review supplement, 23 September.

AD NAUSEAM

THOSE tender souls in adland have responded with due solemnity in the wake of the terrorist attacks on America, ditching campaigns left, right and centre. But in business a bleeding heart usually betrays a bleeding wallet: running a hilarious advertising campaign when the public demands wall-to-wall grief would be commercial suicide.

Moreover, with ad revenues in freefall the cost of TV airtime is much lower than at this time last year. There's never been a better time to pull a campaign and run it later: it won't break the bank and it does wonders for those priceless ethical brownie points.

Airlines in particular will not be gracing our airwaves for some time; not because they feel it would be "inappropriate", as BA claims, but because it's bad business sense: when the coffers are low, advertising is always the first outlay to go. The demise of airline advertising – all day-glo sunsets and winsome lisping kiddies phoning daddy at 35,000 feet – will come as a blessed relief to many. But anyone who thinks that the airlines' touchy-feely stance is slightly suspect will be heartened to hear of BA's decision not to allow Save the Children the use of its landmark Cromwell Road 96-sheet poster site in London.

Save the Children wanted to run an anti-war ad featuring a Muslim child with Save the Children written beneath her, and then a white child with the same words written in Arabic. The message seems timely and noble, but it would appear that BA plays the emotive card only when it suits it.

O·B·N

Nigella Lawson was pictured at the weekend looking alluring in a blonde wig. Since then there has been endless discussion about whether she looks more beautiful as a blonde or brunette. The discussion is academic because Nigella would look divine even if she dyed her lustrous hair purple and encased her shapely, perfect body in baggy orange Crimplene. Nigella could probably even make Crimplene seem stylish.

LYNDA LEE-POTTER
Daily Mail

Submitted by Rob Hardman.

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.

IF YOU'RE feeling sorry for the airlines, spare a thought for poor old debt-ridden BT. Everything it touches seems to turn to mould, not least its tattered advertising strategy.

Consumer ads are still being handled by long-time partners AMV, while overall brand-building has been handed to the go-getters at St Luke's. They duly came up with a new unforgettable catchphrase that escapes me right now. Worse, BT just can't seem to manage to tell the truth: last week it received yet another ticking off for misleading claims in its internet advertising.

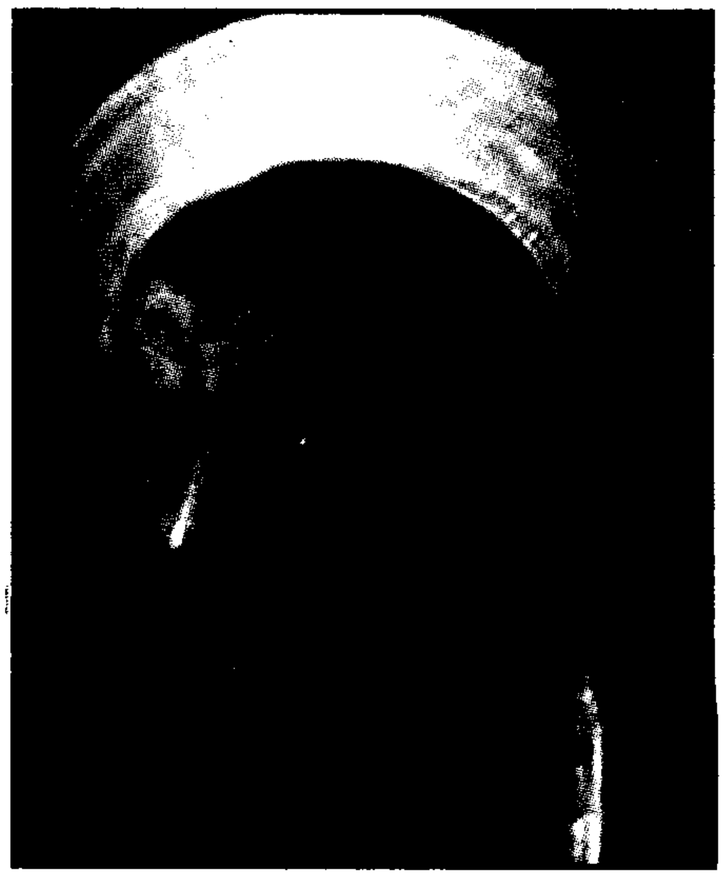
The latest objections were against ads for BT Anytime, which ran with a seemingly simple claim: "BT Anytime for a fast and reliable service." The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) investigated and concluded that the service wasn't reliable.

A quick flick through the files reveals that the only reliable thing about BT advertising is its economy with the truth. In the last year the ASA has upheld six complaints against BT, including a national press campaign for BT SurfTime, which boasted of "Unlimited internet calls with no hidden catches". Alas, there were several catches, and they weren't very well hidden, as letters from a peeved public and another ASA reprimand soon proved.

Then, in May, an ad for BT's Genie service told it straight again: "With a prepay mobile from Genie you get unlimited text and mobile Internet free." You didn't. A month later BT had a pop at Virgin: "10p a message is virgin on the ridiculous. (Only with GenieMobile do you get free text messaging)." Nice pun, but Genie's text service wasn't quite as free as it was made out. And just last month a BT Openworld ad claimed that the Broadband service made your business "40 times faster." Prompting the usual fast, free, reliable and seemingly unlimited response from the ASA: er, not true.

SPLIT personalities

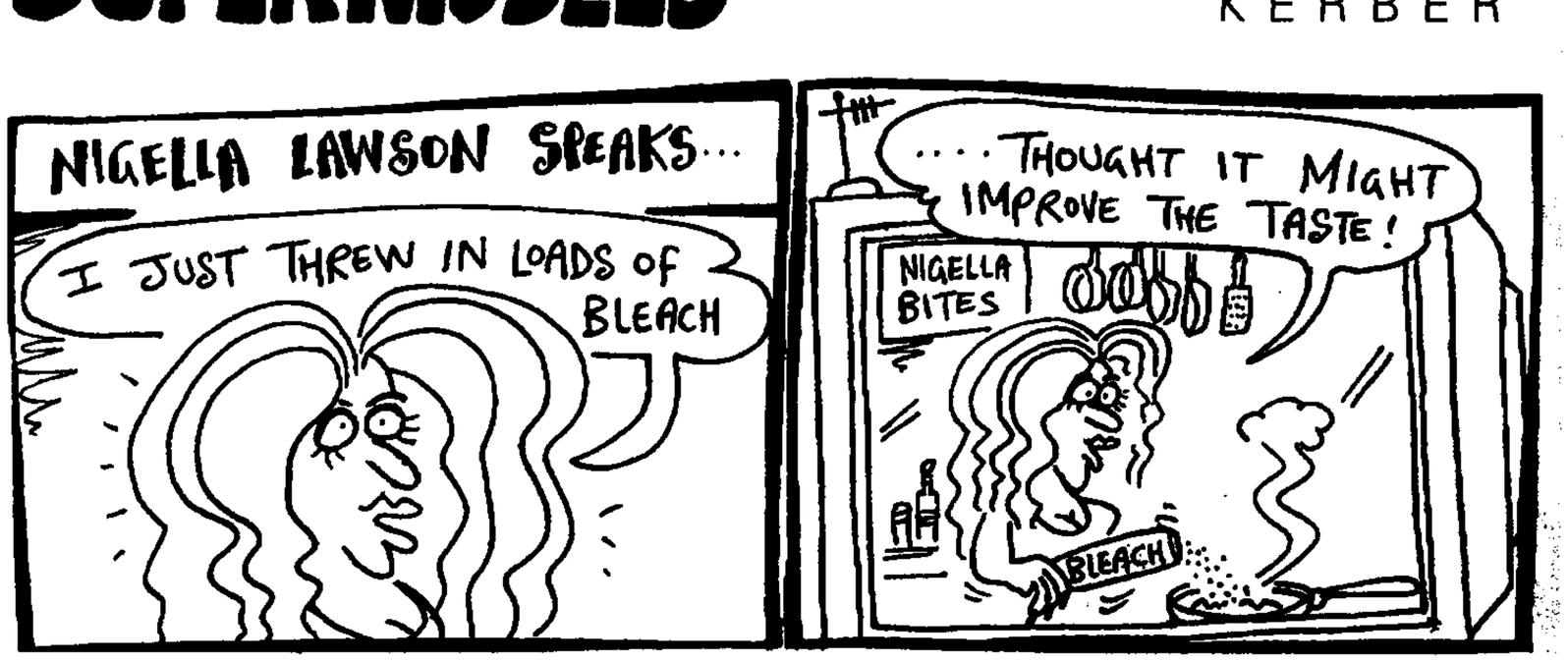
Bob Moore



Mr Bean Laden

SUPERMODELS

KERBER



SIGNAL FAILURES

Cullen report

LORD Cullen's independent inquiry into rail safety delivered just the answers the government wanted – because it was not wholly independent.

"It is plain that the undoubted complexity of the structural arrangements springs to some extent from the disaggregated state of the rail industry," wrote Cullen in his final report. Logically he might then have said the structure should be simplified by reducing the industry's fragmentation. Instead he continued: "I have to take the constitution of the industry as it exists."

Why? There is no physical or financial barrier to changing the railway's constitution in the interests of safety. The reason he couldn't advocate restructuring was political: it's anathema for "new" Labour to reduce the influence of profit-driven companies on public services. Cullen could have searched for the most cost-effective way of delivering a safer railway, but instead he was required to find ways to make the existing dog's dinner safer.

As he wrote: "The most productive approach is to ask what can be done to enable safety to be as effectively managed and regulated as it would be if the industry were a single enterprise." So his only avenue is to advocate masses of extra bureaucracy simply to return railway safety to the state it was in more than 10 years ago.

Cullen recommends that many more people be involved in managing rail safety. He wants a new body to investigate accidents and another one to set safety standards. The health and safety executive's (HSE) railway inspectorate needs more staff and a new leader "commanding a special salary level". Cullen wants more training and refresher courses; an accreditation system for contractors and suppliers; a research database; and a licensing system for drivers and signallers.

He suggests the new bodies and facilities be funded by levies on rail companies, which will translate into even higher rail fares and freight tariffs (unless the taxpayer stumps up). Road transport, with its appalling safety standards, will gain an even greater competitive advantage as rail is further stifled by the effects of political intransigence.

Cullen did a thorough job within his narrow remit. His report outlines elementary management tasks – there are so many inexperienced rail managers they now need a judge to tell them how to do their jobs. Most of the shortcomings have been flagged in the *Eye* since 1995. At last safety standards are to be set independently of Railtrack and accident investigations will aim to find causes rather than culprits. He says Railtrack's contractors should be better controlled and the HSE should do its job properly.

But so stubborn is Labour that one of the biggest safety flaws will have to remain: fragmentation. Cullen highlights the serious problems caused by safety responsibilities being spread across 100 or so organisations, but he is not allowed to suggest ways of significantly reducing fragmentation. Indeed, his recommendations will lead to even more bodies becoming involved, creating scores of additional interfaces.

The new authorities' greater independence will remove some of the most direct conflicts of interest between shareholders and safety. But they may not be enough to counterbalance the complexity of the railway and the confusion and buck-passing which are bound to continue.

'Dr B. Ching'

EYE TOLD YOU SO

There is a need for an immediate and sustained improvement... in the manner in which the employees of contractors and sub-contractors are controlled.

— Cullen report, September 2001.

Railtrack has... subcontracted maintenance of the infrastructure on which the safety of the public depends. The result... is an astonishing number of faults.

— *Eye* 888, December 1995.

The process [of disseminating lessons learned] was inhibited by the "blame culture".

— Cullen report.

The priority for each company... [is] to avoid incriminating itself and attempt to pin the blame on someone else.

— *Eye* 934, October 1997.

"I can assure you that we are carrying out cheques"

DOWN ON THE FARM

DEAR old Paul McCartney. Though his body has now moved to fresh pastures his mind is still faithful to the ideals of the late St Linda. Hence his active support for the radical People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which wants to stop children drinking milk.

PETA, though, is not terribly clever. Its central point in this campaign is all about fat: "The dairy pushers claim that whole milk is `4 percent' fat – it's a trick they play, but don't believe it; whole milk is almost 50 percent fat."

A trick? Could it be that PETA has seen an analysis of milk on a "dry matter" basis and become confused? This slightly undermines its case because whole milk is indeed less than 4 percent fat – similar to, say, bread; while skimmed milk has almost none. Perhaps Macca wants children to live entirely on cans of fizzy chemicals, and crisps which really are 30 percent fat?

All of which is a shame because PETA is quite right about the state of intensive dairy farming: it is a drug-ridden disgrace which has pushed the dairy cow far beyond her limits. This is certainly true of Britain, but in America "farmers" have raised the exploitation of animals to a high art which makes the worst excesses of UK production look like "A Sunny Day on Appledown Farm". McCartney, as an organic land owner, should know better; and rather than deter children from eating healthy food he and PETA would be better employed working to promote more acceptable animal husbandry.

Not that the example set by his own stock-holding is totally perfect. Paul 'n' Linda ran into trouble early on because veganism is only a valid point of view until you happen to buy an actual hill farm in the Mull of Kintyre. Since the couple would not allow any animal to be sent for slaughter, pretty soon the sheep outnumbered the grass. Their next cunning plan was to prevent the ewes from breeding by removing the rams. That didn't help much: the ewes simply mated with the previous year's ram lambs, or with neighbouring rams who were unable to resist so much ovine totty.

So for years now Macca has owned a strange aberration of a sheep farm where the livestock consists of ageing wethers (castrated males) and sex-starved ewes. This certainly does not exploit animals because it produces nothing at all; but the lives of those animals are far less natural than those of millions of sheep on other hill farms. Idealism is a fine thing, but unless it has roots in the real world it is ultimately useless to man or beast.

'Gumboot'

DOING THE ROUNDS

Nothing ever changes

PITY Peter Homa, beleaguered chief executive of the commission for health improvement (CHI). He took office preaching collaboration with NHS staff and reassuring hospitals and GPs they had "nothing to fear" from a CHI inspection. But a colleague who met up with him recently observed how distressed and surprised he was by the appalling standards of care in the NHS.

CHI's first report, nearly a year ago, was a very retrospective look at the long-standing abuse of elderly mental health patients at North Lakeland trust. It was bound to be a "hard-hitting attack on management failings". Its second, into how the wrong kidney was removed from a patient at Carmarthenshire trust, has led to the arrest of a surgeon on manslaughter charges (nothing to fear there, then). But Homa was upbeat a year ago. "These are exceptional cases."

Alas, after a couple of positive reports and a pre-election lull, CHI's last four reports have each picked up the tag of "most damning yet": the "catalogue of failures" at Epsom and St Helier NHS trust; the Loughborough GP who molested male patients unchallenged for years; the heart transplant patients at St George's who "need not have died"; and, most recently, the report into University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire where Homa struggled to find a single positive thing to say.

A trend seems to be appearing here that even health secretary Alan Milburn can spot, but the solution may be a long time coming. The Bristol inquiry chairman Ian Kennedy complained that the NHS has been "littered" with previous inquiries that were "consigned to gather dust on shelves". Yet many of them made precisely the same criticisms of the structure, organisation and resourcing of the NHS that Homa and Kennedy are also making.

Back in 1965 a letter to the *Times* complained about the shocking treatment of "geriatric patients in mental hospitals" and the casual attitude of the ministry of health in dealing with these problems. In 1967 an investigation called Sans Everything concluded that the NHS hierarchy denies problems and dismisses complaints as unfounded, even when supported by strong evidence. There is a tendency to lie low and hope criticism will fade; and complainants are discredited and victimised. This is as good a summary of the Bristol inquiry as one could find.

Joan Higgins, professor of health policy at Manchester University, has analysed dozens of NHS inquiries and found that the very same issues keep recurring. Services working in isolation with inadequate leadership; no clear systems for quality of care and accountability; poor communication and complete disempowerment of staff and patients.

Labour has at least documented these problems and proposed mechanisms such as clinical governance to address them; but those now charged with scrutinising the NHS are amazed how services can have been left for so long to become so poor. Bristol chairman Ian Kennedy was "outraged" at the patchy provision of children's services.

Those working inside the NHS just get desensitised to it all. The DoH gets frustrated at the "resistance to change" in the NHS, but with burn-out and depression affecting around 20 percent of NHS workers it's hard to see where change is going to come from. Staff recruitment is as dire as ever.

When Milburn gave his initial reaction to the Bristol inquiry, he promised immediate publication of "questions patients should ask" when using NHS services. Mysteriously these have yet to appear. When parliament reconvenes he is likely to take Kennedy's advice and give CHI responsibility not just for inspecting the NHS, but also for revalidating it. But will Peter Homa accept such a poisoned chalice? Watch this space.

M.D.

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

WRATH OF THE LORD

ON THE eve of Brighton and Hove's referendum on whether to have an elected mayor, there are worries for the state of mind of likely candidate Lord "Steve" Bassam.

Coming across "rebel" Labour councillor Kevin Allen distributing the anti-mayor campaign's newspaper near his home he rushed across, wagged his finger in Allen's face and cried "My anger knows no bounds!"

The No campaigners — a coalition of Labour rebels, Lib Dems, Tories and Greens — are opposed to Bash'em's plans to foist a directly-elected mayor on Skidrow-on-Sea and create a gravy train for "new" Labour's big-business backers (*Eyes passim*). Instead they want an improved committee system, the least-touted but most democratic option for reform under the new *local government* act.

The sides of council-subsidised Brighton buses now sport pro-mayor posters, donated by local bus company boss Roger French, who chairs Bash'em's Yes campaign. Passengers boarding the buses are met by piles of pro-mayor leaflets. But one No campaigner who invested in an all-day ticket and hopped from bus to bus dishing out the No newspaper was arrested by transport police. That's how "debate" works in "new" Labour's Brighton.

Bassam's bad luck with publicity is illustrated by his pisspoor Yes campaign leaflet. It features a drawing of the Manhattan skyline — including the twin towers of the World Trade Centre — beside the unfortunate slogan "Up with the best".

HULL DOWN

FINANCIAL ruin beckons for pensioners living in former council flats in Hull who exercised their "right to buy" in the 1980s and 90s.

The oldies live in just 29 privately-owned flats out of a total of 384 in six tower blocks on Cambridge Street near the city centre. Hull's Labour city council has announced that it is to embark on a four-year programme of re-cladding the blocks and installing double-glazing. It intends to charge the elderly owner-occupiers some £9,000 per flat for this work, even though many have already installed double-glazing at their own expense. None of them has £9,000 to spare — their flats are, in any case, worth little more than that. If they do not cough up, says the city council, the flats will be repossessed. And there is no question of the council buying them back.

Meanwhile Hull, which had a £200m windfall from the sale of shares in the local council-owned telephone company a couple of years ago, is "reinventing itself as a centre of cool", drools a profile in the *FT*: "In the cobbled streets of the old town, young professionals sip champagne in stylish bars." No doubt Cambridge Street oldies are cracking open the Moet at this very moment.

● HATS OFF to outgoing Isle of Wight council chief executive Bernard Quoroll. Two years into his £100,000-a-year five-year contract he's off with a severance package worth around £330,000, which means he has trousered a grand total of half a million pounds. Councillors in the ruling IF (Island First) coalition decided Quoroll had to go after the embarrassment of the general election count, organised by Bernie, which saw IoW's result limp in hours after every other constituency in Britain. Officially Quoroll is on "gardening leave" until March — making him the highest-paid gardener in the land, thanks to the generous taxpayers of the Isle of Wight.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

OPERATION Danum, the police investigation into Doncaster's bent councillors, is winding down. The crown prosecution service has infuriated the cops by dropping charges against three councillors.

Former leader Colin Wedd has been let off despite compelling evidence concerning expenses claims for a trip to London. He returns immediately to his job lording it over the council-owned racecourse with its expensive, doomed development project. Also out of the fire is Malcolm Wood, of whom the police despaired of ever getting a coherent answer to any question.

The third escapee is former councillor Tommy Roebuck, already on the mend after pleading the "Saunders defence" of dementia. Roebuck had been on course for an intriguing double: back in 1974 he was jailed for 12 months after accepting bribes from corrupt architect John Poulson. Roebuck lost his place on the council but, on his release, stood in his old Mexborough seat as a "True Labour" candidate, before being welcomed back as part of the mining community group which took over the local Labour party in 1981 and ran the council corruptly for more than a decade.

SECOND THOUGHTS

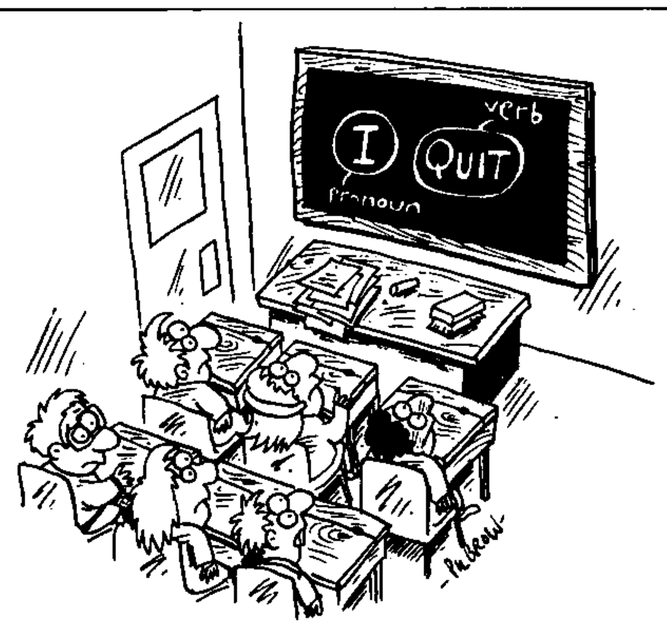
SOUTHWARK council, which suspended monitoring officer Ervine Okuboh after he recommended that the Peckham partnership's tenants and residents forum should not have any further recourse to public funds until proper financial systems were in place (*Eye* 1035), has belatedly realised that perhaps he had a point.

Russell Profitt, recently appointed head of the Peckham partnership, has written to the development manager of the T&R forum, Mike Rahman, asking him to explain the relationship between the forum and a company called Speakers Corner Ltd, which has been the recipient of some of the £365,000 which, it is alleged, may have been misappropriated.

In an attempt to discover how Speakers Corner landed its role in what is supposed to be the multi-million pound regeneration of one of London's poorest areas, Profitt has ordered the forum to produce evidence "of the contractual and legal relationships between the forum and Speakers Corner". Until answers are forthcoming, further funding is suspended.

Southwark has ordered an internal investigation into the allegations and has pledged that the findings will be made public. With the district auditor and Scotland Yard's public sector fraud unit on the case, there are now three separate investigations under way to find out if any money has gone missing, and if so, how much.

● FOLLOWING Isle of Wight council's example (see *Eye* 1036), Waltham Forest in east London has ruled that people who wish to address council meetings must submit the text of what they want to say two days in advance for vetting by officers. Many locals regard this as an attack on democracy. The council tells the *Eye*: "These are new rules laid down by the department of transport, local government and the regions. You will have to speak to them." The DTLR's spokesman tells us: "We have issued general flexible guidelines which individual councils may or may not want to use. How a council interprets those guidelines is up to them."



EDUCASHUN NEWZ

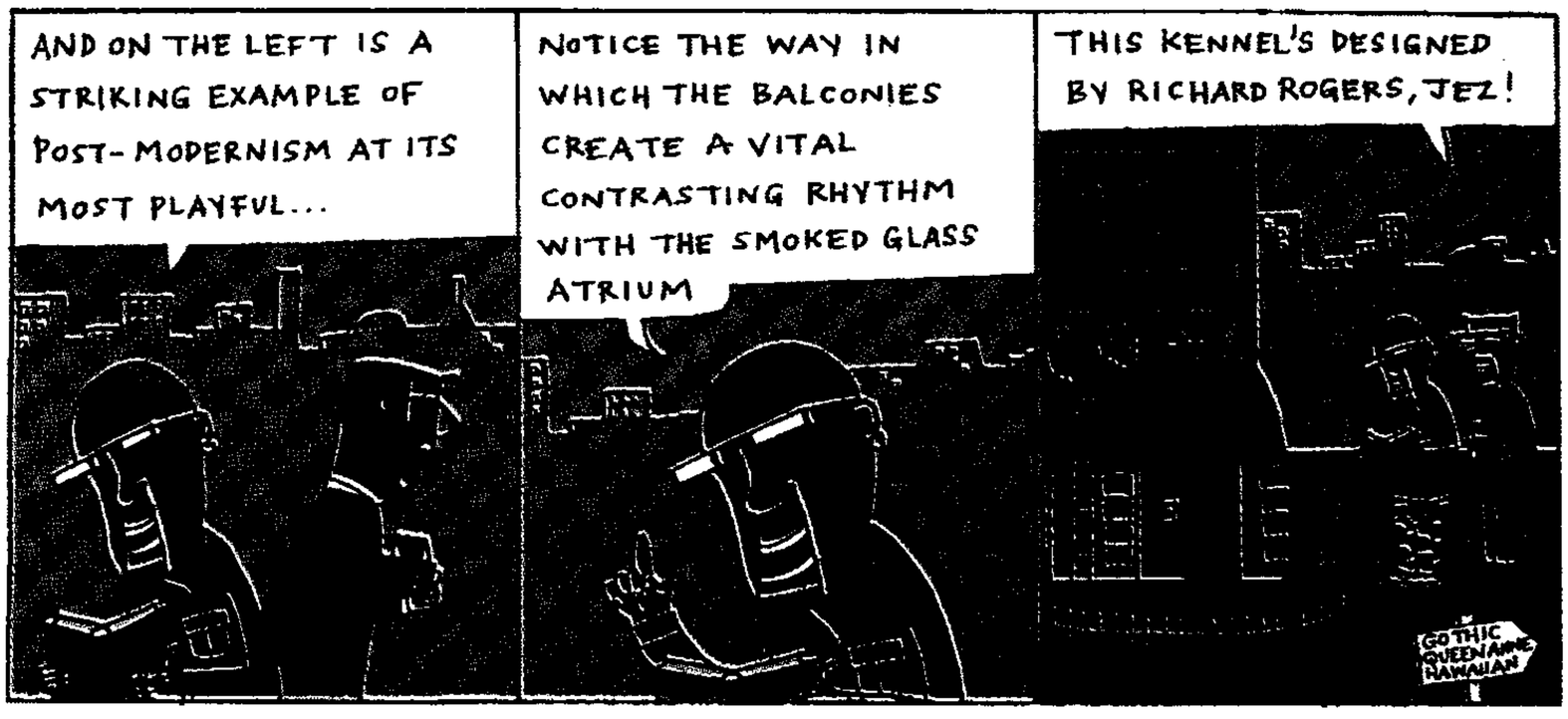
THE inclusion of children with special needs in mainstream schools has been a key principle of government thinking since 1997 following the recommendation of a DfEE green paper. But in the London borough of Richmond closure of a special needs school in line with this policy has led to a bitter political dispute.

On 13 September the Schools Organisation Committee, a body independent of the council although its members include five councillors, voted to close Oldfield House School, a school for 7 to 11 year olds with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD). As no mainstream school in the borough would take the children, from January 2002 the 11 pupils currently at Oldfield will be taught at a unit on the same site but under the management of Clarendon, a secondary school for children with moderate learning difficulties two miles away.

An Ofsted report in February heavily criticising special needs provision for older children in the borough provided the final catalyst for the council to push ahead with its plans in the face of 30 objections from parents, staff and governors. The obvious answer was to divert funds and resources from younger children with EBD. Not only will the unit lose its own head teacher and governing body, but there are also plans to share the site and facilities with a pupil referral unit (PRU) for 11 to 14 year olds who have very different needs from the younger children.

Objectors doubt the move will make significant savings, and believe the council has deliberately run Oldfield down in recent years, refusing to accept children from outside the borough and ignoring various proposals for better use of the school submitted by staff and governors.

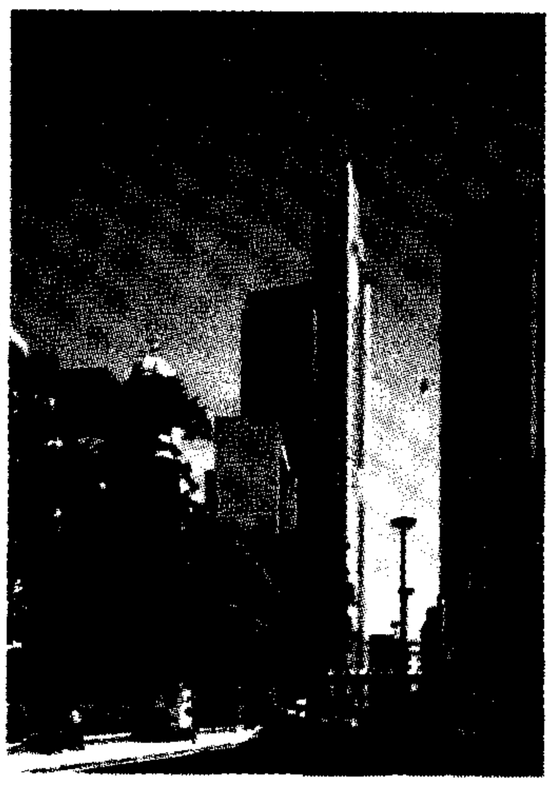
IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON KNIFE & PACKER


AND ON THE LEFT IS A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF POST-MODERNISM AT ITS MOST PLAYFUL...
NOTICE THE WAY IN WHICH THE BALCONIES CREATE A VITAL CONTRASTING RHYTHM WITH THE SMOKED GLASS ATRIUM
THIS KENNEL'S DESIGNED BY RICHARD ROGERS, JEZ!
GOTHIC QUEEN ANNE HAWKSMOOR

NOOKS and CORNERS

"THE Taliban of architecture." Such is London mayor Ken Livingstone's opinion of English Heritage for opposing the exciting notion of a 306-metre high tower by Renzo Piano at London Bridge. For good measure he also considers that English Heritage poses "the biggest threat to the economic vitality and well-being of Londoners since Adolf Hitler". Admittedly these witty insults were delivered before the dreadful events of 11 September; even so, they say much about the former Red Ken's new enthusiasm for high-rise commercial architecture.

The fate of the World Trade Center towers has profoundly altered the way skyscrapers are now regarded by most people. But not, it seems, by architects or Mr Livingstone. The mayor of London still wants some 15 or 20 towers to go up in London over the next decade, ideally designed by Lord Rogers of Riverside.



The architectural profession is ready, of course. There is the project for the 222-metre Heron *Tower by* Kohn Pedersen Fox in Bishopsgate *(pictured)* which is the subject of what promises to be a momentous public inquiry this month. There is the tapering pyramid at London Bridge, to be as tall as the Eiffel Tower. And My Lord Rogers wants to build a 160-metre high masterpiece on the Paddington Basin site.

Sir Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, is understandably furious that a 32-storey tower is proposed for a site close to the main entrance of Tate Modern. Designed by Kevin Dash Architects and Gumuchdjian Associates, it will rise even higher than the campanile-chimney of Sir Giles Scott's former power station. This, complains the Tate, is a proposal which "offers very little to the public realm and is an opportunistic attempt to cash in for private gain on the public benefits that have been created". Quite so.

Despite the staggering death-toll at the World Trade Center, the architectural profession remains defiant. The pages of *Building Design* and *The Architects' Journal* are full of optimistic puffs about the desirability of high buildings. In an interview in the *Sunday Times* five days after the New York atrocity, My Lord Rogers himself insisted that we still need towers, for: "If it wasn't the World Trade Center, it would have been a football stadium. The alternative is to give up cities and live in caves." Not entirely: we could have well-planned but conventional low-rise cities — Paris and Rome manage to do without skyscrapers.

There is no economic necessity for high-rise commercial buildings in the City of London. In 1997 the then chairman of the City of London corporation's planning committee publicly stated: "We no longer have this myth prevailing that corporations need to have high rise in order to establish their reputation in a particular centre. They don't. What they want is a quality building which has flexibility and high design elements."

The following year a report from the former London planning advisory committee stated: "Economic analysis confirms that very high office buildings are not required for London to maintain and enhance its world city role. There is no evidence to support arguments that London will lose jobs to other world cities if high buildings are not developed."

In June 2001 English Heritage — which has been pressing for a coherent and intelligent tall buildings policy for the capital — undertook a survey which found that a majority of the public, 62 percent, was opposed to more tall buildings going up over the next four years and that 91 percent approved of the protection of views of St Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. Only 37 percent strongly disagreed that British cities need more tall buildings to compete on a global scale with places like New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong, but that percentage is now likely to have risen.

So why are towers being so energetically promoted? There is money in them, of course, and the City of London wants to compete with Canary Wharf. But as for members of that overwhelmingly male profession, architects just seem to like big personal gestures. Yet again architects seem completely out of tune with the public. The unfortunates who may actually have to work in these virility symbols, though, will not easily forget the images of people jumping out of the World Trade Center towers rather than be burned alive; nor how long it took survivors to walk down from the 90th floor. The Heron Tower, like Yamasaki's late masterpieces, will have no central staircase core: just lots and lots of glass.

'Piloti'

TWO Aberystwyth councillors want extra signs, deterring the feeding of birds on the promenade, to be high on the pecking order of Cyngor Sir Ceredigion's environmental health department.

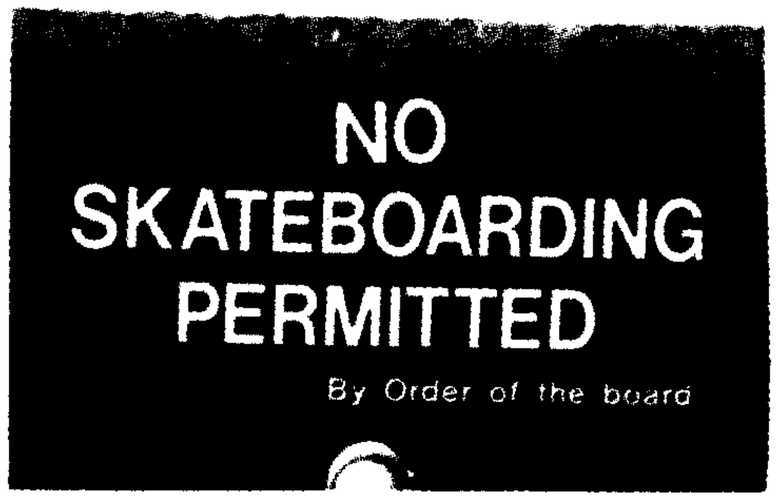
Cambrian Times

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH

I'm sick of all these has-beens slagging us off as cynical money-grubbers!
Arts Guardian
Stephen Bayley slams Britart Design guru lays into Hirst and Emin.
'tea bag more beautiful'
And what's he famous for? ex-Creative Director of the Dome! That says it all!
Be fair, Sophie - he quit once he realised what a cock-up it was.
Exactly! He didn't even stick around long enough for a decent pay-off!

I-SPY *Portreath, Cornwall*



Submitted by P.K. Coleborn. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)*

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

ONE problem with the annual *Gramophone* awards is that they go to successful artists who, being successful, are too busy to turn up to collect them. Representatives from record companies file on to the stage to thank the judges on behalf of *x* or *y*, apologising that the great star can't be there because (s)he's singing in Los Angeles or playing for the Queen of Spain.

The organisers therefore took precautions for the 2001 awards in London later this month, and decided to make the mezzo Cecilia Bartoli their artist of the year. La Bartoli is arguably the classical world's most celebrated female singer and not undeserving of the accolade. But more to the point she is spending October in London and is booked for appearances at the Royal Opera House. All of which makes her a fortuitous choice; and the date of the awards – 19 October – was fixed to fit in with her performance nights.

However, when the magazine approached her she did not, as artists usually do on such occasions, purr with pleasure. She said she wasn't interested – an unprecedented response to what are, after all, the Oscars of the classical recording business.

It seems she isn't pleased with what the *Gramophone* has written about her in the past – quite flattering, according to the recollections of editorial staff, but obviously not flattering enough – and it leaves the magazine in considerable embarrassment: snubbed again, and this time with no convenient excuses about Spain, Queens or Los Angeles.

● THE outrage occasioned by Karlheinz Stockhausen's unfortunate comparison between the attack on the World Trade Center and "a great work of art" was swift and devastating.

Two concerts of the composer's work in Hamburg were immediately cancelled after the sponsors withdrew. The city's culture spokesman threw herself in front of news reporters, eager to denounce the comment as "inexcusable". And Stockhausen himself has left town to go into hiding.

Anyone who has followed the German avant-gardist's cutting-edge career will know he has a longstanding interest in aeronautics which has got him into difficulty before. Some years ago he wrote an aerial quartet designed to be played by four string players in four separate helicopters waiting, ready for take-off, on the roof of the concert hall. The sound would then be relayed by transmitters to the (still terrestrial) audience. It was premiered in Amsterdam and would no doubt have been taken up, as it were, elsewhere but for the discovery (a) that the audience could hear nothing but the whirr of rotor blades; and (b) that take-offs from the roofs of city concert halls are usually illegal.

Asked why he wanted the piece played in helicopters, he explained that he had not been born on earth but on the star Sirius and that his music was addressed to relatives back home. Raising the performance up into the sky, he said, would help them hear it.

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

Letters

The last issue of Private Eye (1037) provoked an enormous reaction from our readers. Here are some of the highlights.

Anti

... I return herewith your last, disgraceful, edition of Private Eye. [Written on cover in large letters "Pathetic Under-Sixth Form Sick Humour – For God's Sake Act Like Grown-Ups." Ed.]

At a time when possibly five thousand innocent bodies lie beneath the fallen towers of the WTC in New York, I find it quite unbelievable that even a twisted mind should think it civilised to print such a cheap and nasty front cover.

What sort of people are you? Tens of thousands of Americans gave their lives during the world wars to help us to preserve our admittedly imperfect democracy. That freedom of speech and publication which we now enjoy, and which enables you to be what you are, is partly due to their sacrifice. Looking at your front cover, one can't help but wonder whether it was all in vain.

My wife, who never reads your paper, agrees with me that its presence defiles our home.

Yours,
MR P. BRUNDRETT.

... While I admire Private Eye for many things, you really should take your heads out of your Oxbridge arses occasionally and realise that there are simply some occasions when you should resist taking the piss. Six-and-half thousand dead in a terrorist atrocity is one of them...

Please try harder.

Yours, etc,
RICHARD CABLE.

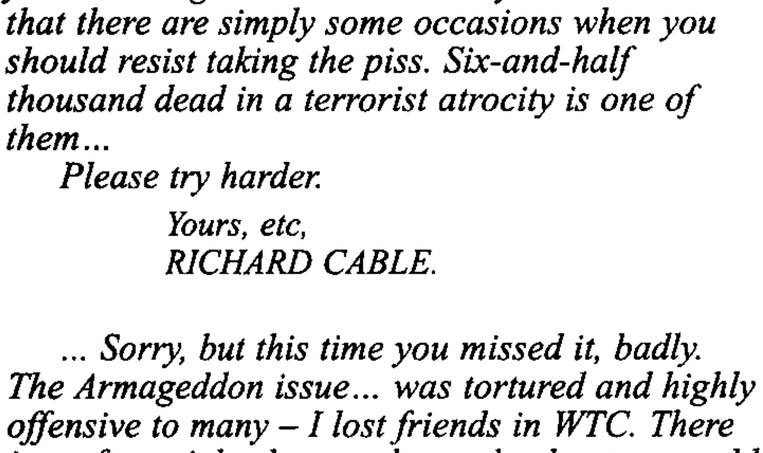
... Sorry, but this time you missed it, badly. The Armageddon issue... was tortured and highly offensive to many – I lost friends in WTC. There is no funny joke that can be made about some old lady hit by a bus at high speed, and certainly no joke when a couple leap from Floor 102 to their death, hand in hand, rather than be consumed in flames.

PETER J. CLARK.

... You didn't put Osama bin Laden on the cover. Obviously playing safe again.

Yours,
E.A. ADLUM.

Lookalike



Sir,

I wonder if any of your readers have noticed, as I have, the strange resemblance between the signature of Osama bin Laden and a Kalashnikov.

Surely they cannot be related in any way?

Yours,
ENA B. MADEUPNAME,
W1.

... Just what does it take for you lot to see compassion?

If justice is not a "banana" – your silly, ill-informed, poisonous little rag will disappear from our news vendors for good.

You are all probably pissing yourselves laughing in "Chattering Classes Land", but you have under-estimated the global nature of the internet. Your callous indifference to so much suffering is, as I speak, electronically winging its way round the globe.

Good riddance,
TONY PENDREY.

... I have just glanced through about half of your current issue before going to work. Over 5,000 people have been killed in New York and you see this as a suitable subject for jokes. Satire has been defined as ridiculing vice or folly – under which heading are the victims to be satirised?

I read the Eye from almost its first issue before stopping in the early 70s. I came back to it with your Maxwell death issue and have read it since. This is the end.

One final thought: do you have an editorial policy which defines an upper limit in deaths beyond which you will not print jokes or do you decide this as you go along?

R.A. WAINWRIGHT.

... I regret to say that I didn't find No 1037 funny – in fact, under the awful circumstances I found it to be nauseating.

Yours sincerely,
D. N. TROUGHTON.

... I have been reading Private Eye since the 1960s and am a subscriber. I was shocked and disgusted by the front page of Eye 1037 and the Gnome column. To make fun of the death of some 6,000 people and their president in such dreadful circumstances is unforgivable. You should apologise.

Yours faithfully,
K.F. UNWIN.

... That Armageddon cover was absolutely crap – you had one of the biggest events ever and you blew it.

ANTHONY DOWLING.

Pro

... Following the 11 September attacks, the other hi-jacking that took place was of the very real shock felt by all who watched those events by the gut-wrenching hypocrisy of our so-called leaders and the opportunism of the media. Your last issue proved a welcome and balanced antidote.

GLYN POWELL..

... Thank you, thank you, thank you for talking common sense, being rational and exposing the voyeur coverage of the terrorist attacks by television and papers. Your approach has been far more sensitive than that of many other media organisations.

Keep up the good work.

D. ASHBRIDGE.

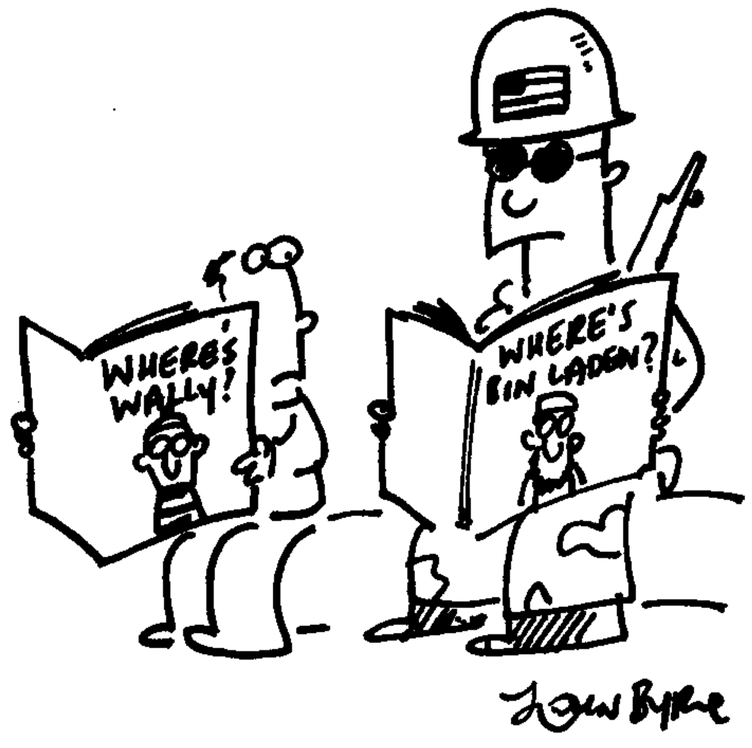
... Congratulations on your current issue. Very frank, funny and refreshing after 10 days of armageddon newsprint.

Well done.

JON (subscriber).

... They say great catastrophes bring out the best in people. Well that certainly applies to Private Eye this week. Easily the funniest and most interesting issue I've read for many a month. Many thanks, was sorely needed.

JOHN RAYNER.



... As ever, Private Eye is the only paper cutting through the bullshit and not going for the pornographic excesses that all the other papers seem to have gone for (frankly, the "pull out and keep" photo specials of people jumping from the WTC in all the other papers made me want to puke). Power to your organ.

SIMON STAPLETON.

... Read your latest issue and have to say it was handled with just the right amount of tact. No doubt you will receive numerous subscription cancellations – probably from those same sad bastards who spent the entire day of the 11th Sept glued to their TVs and gratefully lapping up every detail in the following day's papers – but I believe you managed to hit the nail on the head.

Keep up the great work.

DARREN REA,

PS: Has anyone thought to arrest the Hamiltons in respect to the events of the 11th?

... Private Eye is supposed to be satirical. It is therefore totally unacceptable for Lord Gnome, writing from the Gnome Trade Centre ("center", shurely?) to disseminate facts and sound sense through your organ. That sort of thing would fit better in the FT.

Unfortunately I cannot send in my "Special cut-out-and-keep sub. cancellation form" by e-mail, so it will follow by Consignia-snail-mail.

Meanwhile, thank God/Jehovah/Allah for Private Eye, a puddle of sanity in the British political desert.

SIDNEY HOLT.

... I am just writing to congratulate you on issue 1037 – I will certainly be renewing my subscription. Whilst it goes without saying that I was shocked by the events of Tuesday 11th, by the end of the week I was becoming convinced that I was either an un-feeling bitch or I was going mad. The entire world seemed to be convulsed by feelings of mawkishness and revenge – a mixture I find most unsavoury. To express any other opinion was almost impossible, to laugh inappropriate, to urge restraint unfeeling. Did anyone else feel suffocated by these Hallmark Card emotions?

Keep up the good work.

Yours,
GRACE INGRAM (Mrs).

... After getting hold of the latest appendage to your organ I found myself shocked to the core. It was offensive in its inoffensiveness. Surely with an event as serious as the Trade Centre bombing, you could have handled the issue with far more insensitivity and a lot less decorum. I've decided to get a subscription so that I can cancel it and feel the Power of the Consumer coursing through my veins.

Yours sincerely,
SAM GODDARD.

... Many thanks for this issue. A wonderful antidote.

LEONARD STEHN.

... Unlike the Princess Di issue, at least your post-World Trade Center outrage number was allowed on to the news-stands. Indeed, I was able to acquire it in W.H. Smug in Kings Lynn – admittedly they did offer me a free copy of the Daily Mail with it, no doubt to counteract any subversive thoughts I found therein.

Anyway, congratulations. The Eye is a much-needed voice of sanity in such times.

Yours,
KEITH FLETT.

... Thank you for keeping your nerve over the awful business in New York. You do realise, of course, that you will henceforth be considered to be terrorists under Uncle Sam's new "If you ain't for us, you're against us" policy. Dubya's speech was hilarious.

All the best,
LAURIE HARPER.

... Following the events of 11th September, I was appalled that you would seek to lampoon the President of the United States of America in this fashion. To suggest that, faced with the current situation, a man of the intelligence of President Bush would respond with such a quip is a gross misrepresentation – surely he would be more likely to have said "I'm busy. Tell him to wait."

Yours faithfully,
C.J. PARKER.

... I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms about the cut-out and send Cancel Your Subscription coupon in the last issue. This constituted a grave human rights breach of bores who regard it as a birthright to pompously cancel their subscriptions on the Letters Page.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK MIDDLETON,

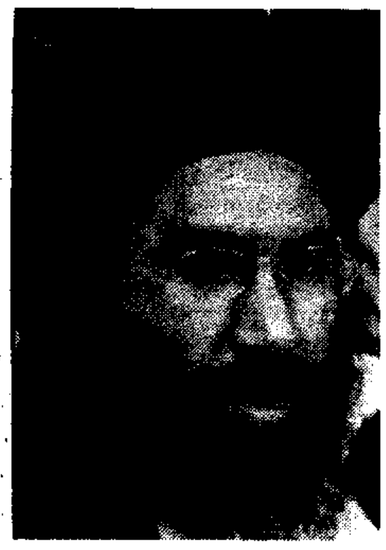
Thanks to the readers who sent in the cancellation form – many were genuine but not, I think, this one. Ed.

SPECIAL CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATION FORM

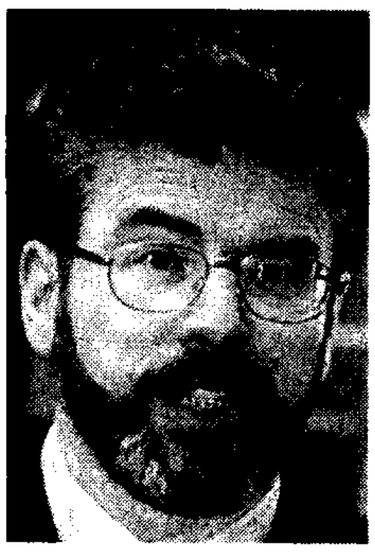
Dear Sir,
I was shocked and appalled by the ~~cover/cartoon~~/~~article~~/crossword *(delete as applicable)* in the latest issue of Private Eye. I have been a reader for ~~9~~ years and have never been so offended. Please cancel my subscription at once.
Name: O. BIN LADEN
Address: C/O C.I.A
LANGLEY VA U.S.A

"Oh, he's the same as ever... Not been there, not done it, never bought a T-shirt..."

Lookalike



Adams



Mullah

Sir,

Have your readers noticed the startling similarity between the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, and Gerry Adams Sinn Fein/IRA leader? Are they in any way genetically and ideologically related?

Yours perspicaciously,
RICHARD E. WILSON,
Rochford, Essex.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

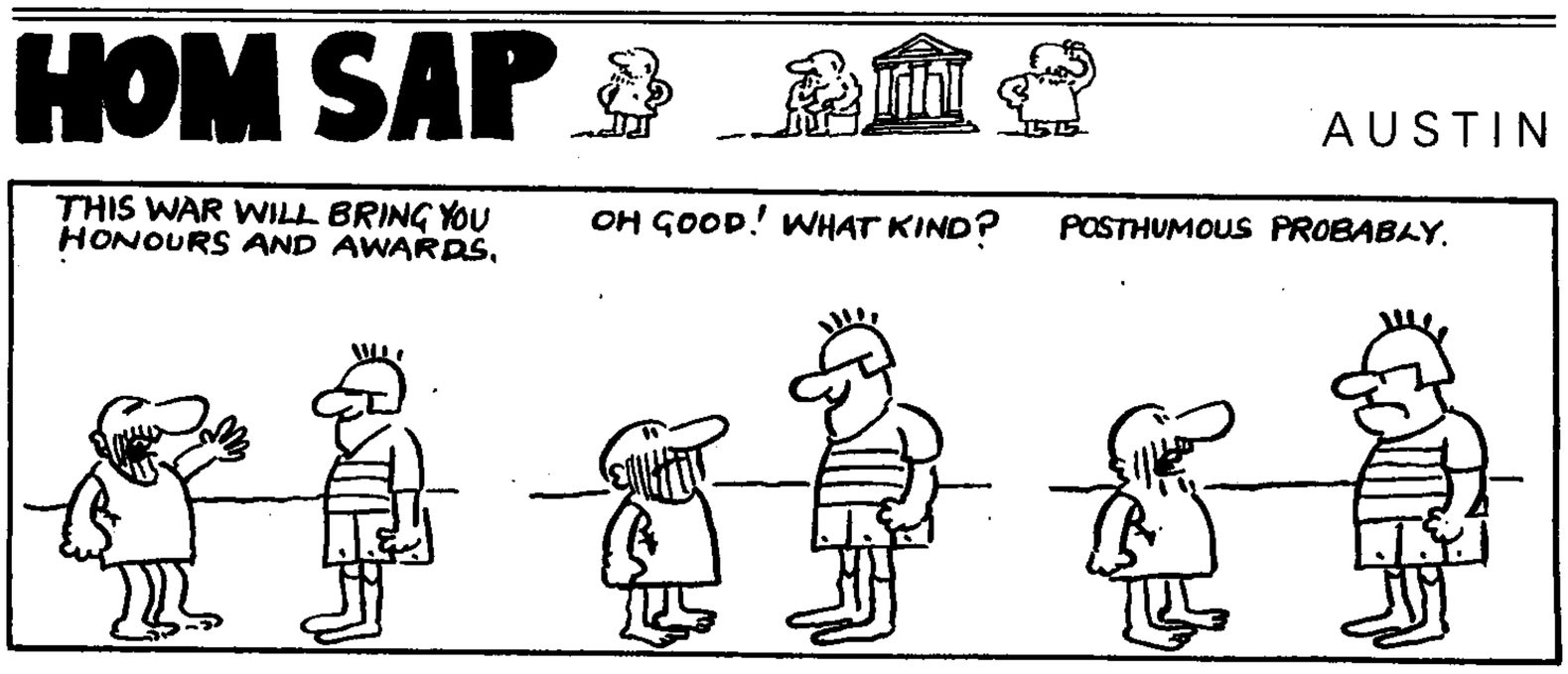
"It's too early to think about these things, but we can talk about them."
ROBERT ELMS, BBC Radio London
(Michael Carlson)

"We managed to wrong a few rights."
KEVIN KEEGAN, GMR
(J.B. Nicholson)

"The Pope has spoken of his unspeakable horror."
Radio 5 Live
(Kathryn Conchie)

"There's a few tired limbs in the blue legs."
RON ATKINSON, ITV Sport
(Alex Duff)

"These managers all know their onions and cut their cloth accordingly."
MARK LAWRENSON, BBC1
(Dominic Birch)



The other Letters

Private Eye

The Egypt Air theory

Sir,

Was it inevitable that following the recent suicide attacks in the US, the "pilot suicide" theory for the loss of the Egypt Air flight would resurface, with an added terrorist twist? The most plausible explanation for its downing and that of Swiss Air 111, remains a foul-up by the US military. Both flights took off from the same airport, at the same departure time, on the same weekday, and suffered catastrophic failure at the same time in their journey. On both occasions it is now proven that the US military were playing electronic counter measure war games in the area. For readers interested in this case, which has wide implications of government incompetence and mendacity, have a look at Elaine Scarry's great investigative journalism in the New York Review of Books.

Yours,
TONY MOORE,
Via e-mail.

Ladbroke Grove: the blame

Sir,

I attended the Cullen Inquiry and read his report. I know that HMRI/HSE must accept a large degree of responsibility for the crash at Ladbroke Grove.

The reason my daughter and 30 others were killed was because an error by a driver was made a disaster by Railtrack and HMRI/HSE.

The gross negligence of HMRI/HSE was in allowing trains to run on an unapproved track layout (see 10.3 Cullen), the interlocking via points 8059 meant a head on collision was inevitable: surely tantamount to insanity.

The signal SN109 was noncompliant to standards and had not been looked at by a Signal Sighting Committee after 8 SPAD's another oversight.

Finally who would with any commonsense allow a company to run non ATP fitted trains on ATP fitted track (the Heathrow Express is ATP fitted so we protect visitors, however they are still in danger from the unfitted Thames trains) other than HMRI?

ROBIN KELLOW,
Skipton, N. Yorks.

False profit

Sir,

Your report on my reaction to how events in America would effect tourism to France was to say the least misleading.

Unlike other companies involved in tourism and travel who have already laid off thousands of workers, we made the decision to take positive action to protect the incomes of hundreds of small business and private individuals who depend on letting holiday homes for their living through our services. The action we therefore took was to extend our print run at further cost to ourselves. Heavily subsidise our advertisers as many of them had already spent their advertising budgets. Allocate further funds to advertise in Europe where most holidaymakers can drive to France. Thus absorbing any losses ourselves rather than allow our members to suffer financially. Not exactly the actions of a company who make their money from arranging travel seeking to profit from this tragedy.

PAUL HERBERT,
(CEO Where On Earth Group),
Via email.

Lookalike

Calf

Lawson

Sir,

Having purchased The Times' Saturday magazine to read about its cover star, the dogmatic goddess Pauline Calf, I was most disappointed to discover that it was merely a ruse exploiting the similarity between this celebrated TV beauty and the publication's own columnist Nigella Lawson.

Yours,
J.M. HOOD,
London E3.

"We can take the day off – the congregation has a cold"

Rectoral probe

Sir,

Sharing (as one does) the understandable anger of the rector of St Andrew's university at unwarranted meeja intrusion into the private lives of sensitive young persons, I wonder whether you might have any photographic evidence of nauseating harassment of the younger generation by members of the press who ought to be ashamed of themselves. If so I think it is your public duty to publish it at once.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FITZGERALD,
Strawberry Hill, Middlesex.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

"I knew something was wrong as soon as he got into my cab," Cheung Shu-wo told the Fanling District Court in Hong Kong, "because he started calling me 'Elvis', then took out a paper-cutter and held it to my throat. I asked him what he wanted, and he said 'give me $500 or drive me to a police station.' I told him I only had $100, and I offered it to him, but he said that it wasn't enough. Then he asked me to step on his blue suede shoes, and begged me to arrest him. I told him to get out, but he wouldn't, so eventually I drove him to the police station. And then he waited patiently in my cab, while I went inside and persuaded someone to come out to arrest him."

Cheung was giving evidence in the case of Leung Siu-wai, 23, who was accused of one count of attempted robbery. According to Leung's lawyer, Raymond Lee, "my client should be accused of stupidity, not robbery. He was jobless, homeless, penniless, obsessed by Elvis Presley, and generally so desperate that he actually wanted to go to prison. He thought that staging a robbery would be the solution to his problems, but he realises now that desperation is no excuse for crime." *(South China Morning Post, 1/9/01. Spotter: George Adams)*

— o —

"Patrick was one of the greats, and this is a sad loss to the game," Declan Holmes told reporters, shortly after the annual Hide and Seek competition in Co. Sligo had ended. "We all called him 'the cunning master' and he was a bloody genius at the sport. We'll never find another like him."

Announcing the news that the corpse of Patrick Derry (seven times winner of the event) had been discovered at the back of a cupboard in a disused farmhouse in Tubbercurry, event organiser Barry O'Heron explained what had happened. "When this year's contest was declared over, four competitors were still in hiding. Declan came out voluntarily, and emergency seekers soon found the Flynn brothers submerged in marshland, breathing through straws. But there was no sign of Patrick until the police, acting on a tip off, searched the farmhouse and found his body. A post mortem will be held, but it seems that he died of natural causes."

Local priest Father Eamon Caffey later expressed his concern about the event. "This is the second fatality in three years. It's getting to be more dangerous than motor racing. How many more young lives must be lost before we see an end to it? I would dearly like to see it banned, but I fear that might just drive it underground, with even less precautions taken to protect competitors."

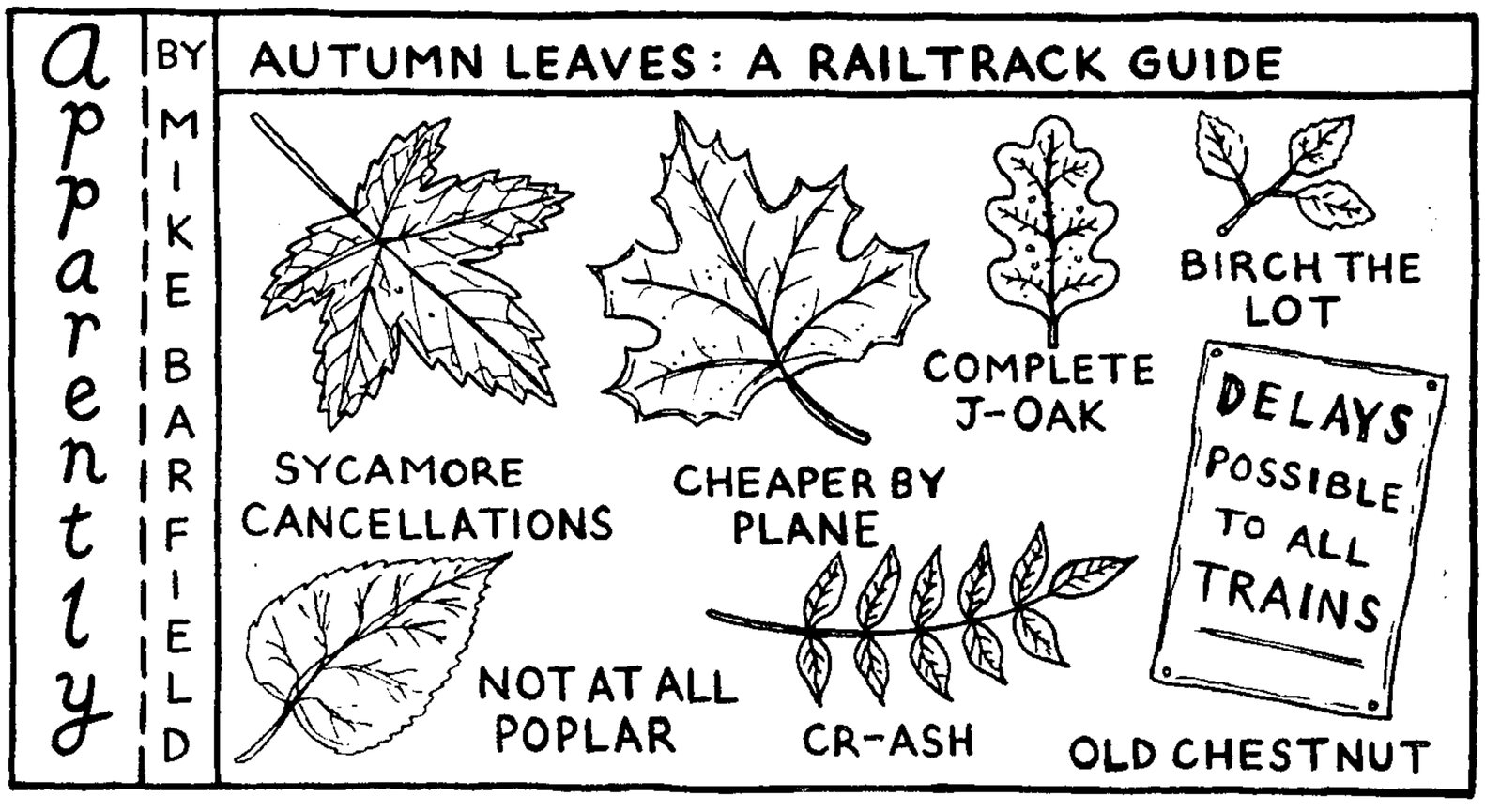
But Barry O'Heron retorted that "to call for a Hidey ban is stupid. In all its history, there's only been thirteen known deaths,

and many of the missing-presumed-deads had heavy family commitments, from which they may have been trying to escape. I tell you, this sport is safer than watching Manchester City." *(Sixteen, 6/8/01. Spotter: David Emery)*

— o —

"In our defence, I should make it clear that our advertisements for 'The Last Contest You'll Ever Need' were not supposed to be taken seriously," Darryl Parks told a press conference in Cincinnati. "We were trying to make a satirical point about a very, very sad situation, that's all. There is no contest, and this radio station will not be giving a free burial casket to the hundredth shooting victim in the city this summer."

Parks, the operations manager of the WLW talk-radio station, was defending the promotional material which he and his colleagues had been putting out for the fictitious contest. "We ran trails saying 'no need to listen for the song of the day, no need to be the seventh caller, just drop dead as Cincinnati's hundredth shooting victim this year, and you'll be a winner!' And we started using a drumroll each morning, before announcing how many people had been shot in the city since the April riots. And we sent out leaflets giving the competition rules, saying that the words 'gunshot wound' must appear on the victim's death certificate, and that the fatal shot must not have been fired by the victim, or an immediate member of their family, or by anyone employed by this radio station or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates. We thought everyone would realise that it was a joke, but I guess a sense of humour is a very individual thing." (Cincinatti Post, 16/8/01. Spotter: Rob Davies)



Special Edition Of The ST ALBION PARISH NEWS (The Paper That Supports Our Boys [And Girls!])

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE VICAR

MY FELLOW-PARISHIONERS!

At this grave time I have to announce that, as a mark of respect, we shall be severely curtailing our annual parish outing to Brighton from four days to two.

I know this will come as a disappointment to many of you, particularly those parishioners who had been planning to ask me some pretty tough questions about where I thought the parish was going.

I am thinking of our friends down at the Working Men's Club, the representatives of the Darby and Joan Action Group (such as Mr Dalyell and Mrs Castle) and, of course, Mr Ken Livingstone of the Aquatic Pets Centre.

Don't get me wrong. These people will all have a chance to say their piece in due course, say in two or three years' time.

But the point is that we are all now living in a new world and it may very well be a world in which we no longer have time for luxuries such as four-day outings to the seaside, where every troublemaker and malcontent in the parish can get up and express his opinions of the Vicar as if it was his God-given right.

It may be that I am wrong, but I never am!

So, here is the new itinerary for the trip to Brighton, which I would ask you all to cut out and pin to your fridge doors!

DAY ONE

12pm Coach leaves for Brighton (sponsored by Stagecoach – "We'll get you there eventually")

2pm Arrive Brighton for formal luncheon in McDonald's (sponsored by Thames Water)

3pm Move to hotel conference room for address by the Vicar (sponsored by Dirty Des's Adult Magazine Exchange)

6pm Vote of thanks to the Vicar, moved by Mr Campbell

7pm Drinks party on pier (finger food sponsored by Mr Haskins of the Northern Freezer Co – "It's tastier frozen")

8pm Prayers and community sing-song on theme of "The Last Night of the Bombs" to include Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and Jerusalem. Final rendition of The Red (White and Blue) Flag.

9pm Return to St Albion's

DAY TWO

Cancelled

Tony

Reproduced as a service to readers

The Vicar's Sermon 'In Time Of War' (as preached last Sunday at Evensong)

We hear a lot in the Bible about how we should all love our neighbours and turn the other cheek and blessed are the peacemakers and all that sort of stuff. Well, it may have been all very well in its time. But times have changed. Since last week we are living in a different world. How is it different, I hear you ask? Let me tell you, in one simple little word. W-A-R. And let's take that one letter at a time. 'W' (or 'Dubya' as we've come to call it!) is for 'We'. 'A' stands for 'Are'. And 'R', of course, for 'Ready', or 'Raring to go'. I am sure the children will find that easy to remember. I know I do! It's what we call an 'acro-nym' from the Greek words 'acro', meaning 'fools' and 'nym', meaning 'no one'.

And now we shall sing a special selection of hymns suitable to these stirring times in which we live.

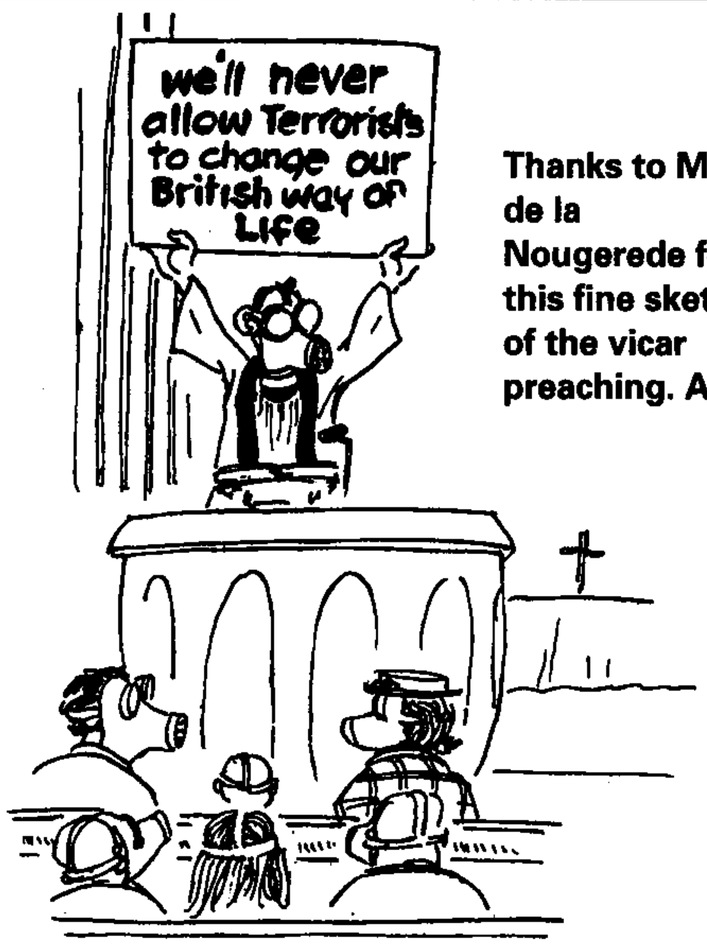
You wouldn't find them in our 'Modern And Modern Hymn Books', because we cut them all out when I arrived here four years ago. But I have printed a special hymn sheet (sponsored by our local 'Army and Navy Surplus' shop in the High Street).

Hymns

'Onward British Soldiers'

'Stand Up, Stand Up for G. Bush'

'Old Bin Laden Lies A-Mouldering In His Cave' (to tune of 'Battle Hymn of the Republic')



Thanks to Mr de la Nougerede for this fine sketch of the vicar preaching. A.C.

KILL A TERRORIST AND WIN ONE OF MRS JAY'S LEMON DRIZZLE CAKES!!!

Parish Postbag

Dear Sir,

How nauseating to see our vicar making a fool of himself by his shameless toadying to the Reverend Bush of the Church of Latter Day Morons. I remember when

Yours faithfully,
Tony Benn, The Old Teabag,
Tetley Road, PGT 1PS

Dear Sir,

I am shocked by the way I have been treated by the Vicar and his pals. After working flat out on a report on the St Albion's Cottage Hospital which is an appalling

Mrs Claire Rayner,
Dunagonising, Luvvie Street

Editor's Note: In view of the changed circumstances brought about by the world situation, it may in future be necessary not just to cut letters for reasons of space, but, as a mark of respect, to drop this feature altogether. After all, there are more pressing matters with which to fill the limited space available in this newsletter, such as Mr Blunkett's important announcement below.

A. Campbell, Editor-in-Chief

A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MR BLUNKETT

I would inform all parishioners that a limited number of gas masks has come to light from a cupboard at the back of the Church Hall. These are being made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply in writing to "Gas mask Offer", c/o Mr Blunkett, The Vicarage, enclosing a photocopy of your ID card.

D. Blunkett
Parish Biological and Chemical Warfare Officer (formerly Neighbourhood Watch)

To Remember In Your Prayers

Mrs Short, who has been suffering from panic attacks, causing her to say things she must deeply have regretted. Let us all pray hard for Clare to be given the virtues of self-control and the realisation that no one in this world can expect to hold onto their job for ever. T.B.

Exclusive To Private Eye – The Boris Johnson Diaries

Chapter One

CRIKEY! I'm for it! I've sold my diaries to the Times and the rotters have put my picture all over the front page! And I'm meant to work for the Telegraph! Ooo-err!

Chapter Two

THE cheque has arrived! Yarooo! Straight down to the tuckshop for lashings of ginger pop and sticky buns!

Chapter Three

UH-OH! My boss Charles is in a terrific bate! Blimey! Even my friend Lord Black is fuming with yours truly! Better put a copy of my book down my trousers!!

Chapter Four

OUCH!! Howl!! Whimper!! I've had a thrashing from the beak. And my book was too thin to help! Cripes!

Chapter Five

BOO hoo hoo! I'm going to be sacked! What will I do? I'll have to be an MP, I suppose. Thinks: crikey! That's no fun.

TOMORROW: Boris becomes leader of the Conservative Party *(Some mistake surely?)*

Those Banned BBC Singles

THE FOLLOWING popular hits have been temporarily withdrawn from the airwaves as a mark of respect:

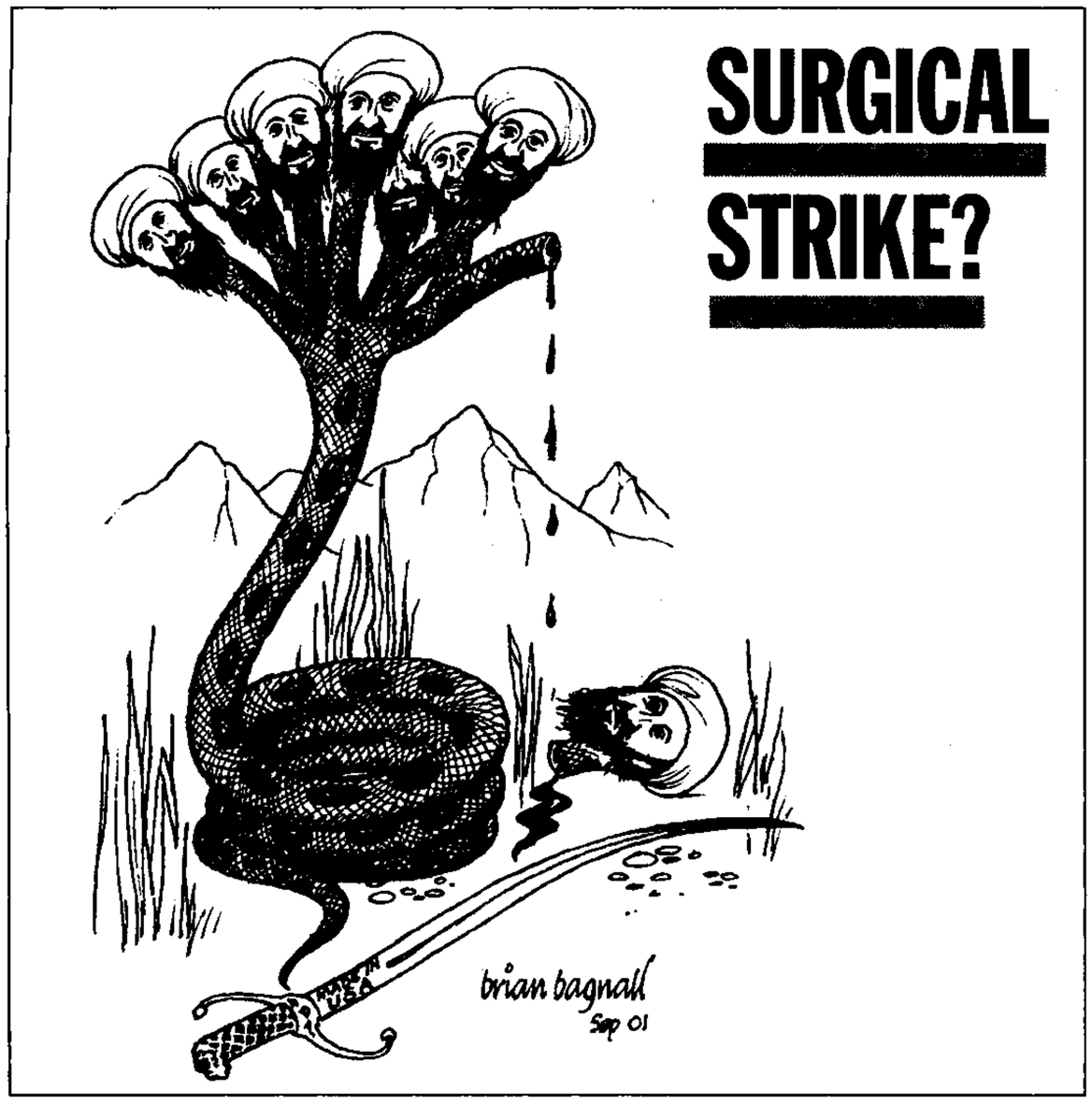
- *Hey Mr Taliban (Tally me bananas)* **Harry Belafonte**
- *Hey Mr Talibourine Man* **Bob Dylan**
- *Taliband On The Run* **Wings**

(That's enough songs. Ed.)

TV Highlights

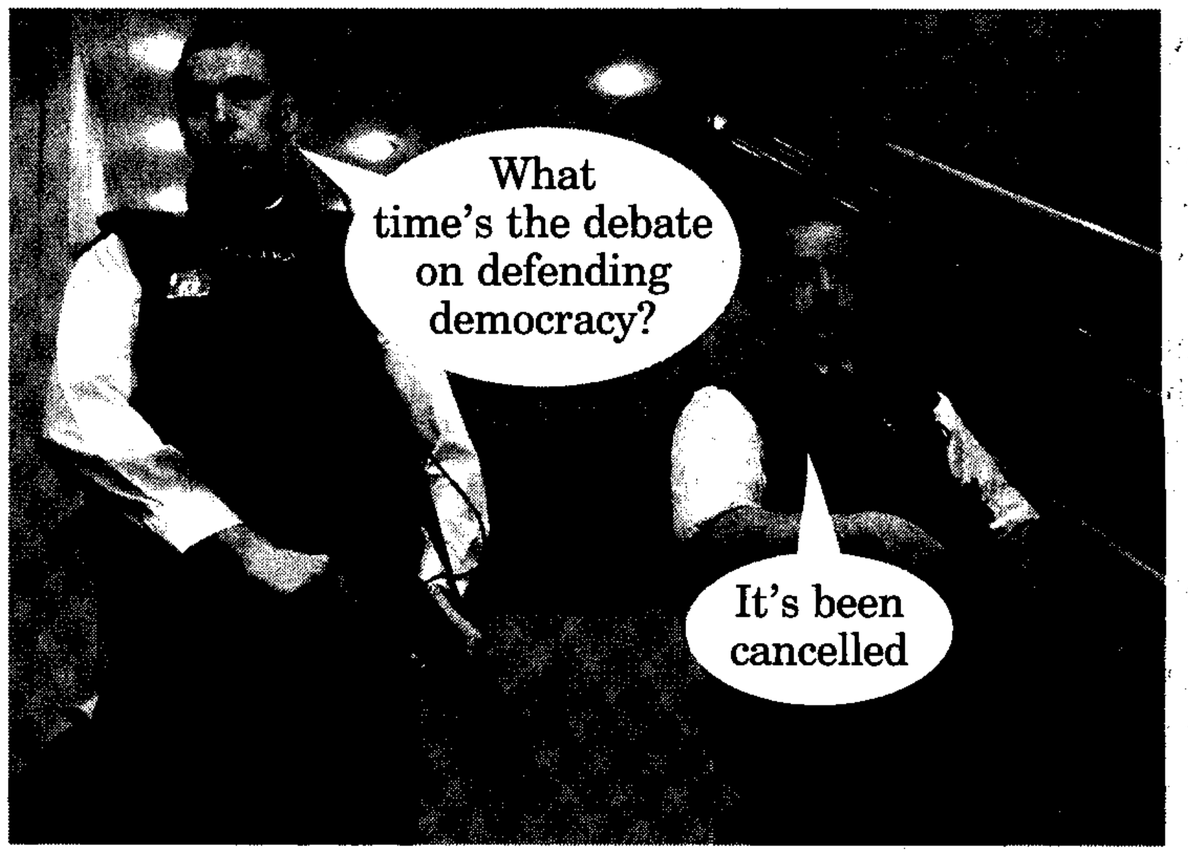
Coming soon...

ARDENT Television's University Challenge, presented by Prince Edward. Tonight, live from the curry house in St Andrew's, and it's the turn of the students to answer questions like "Come on, have you seen Prince William trying to snog anyone?"



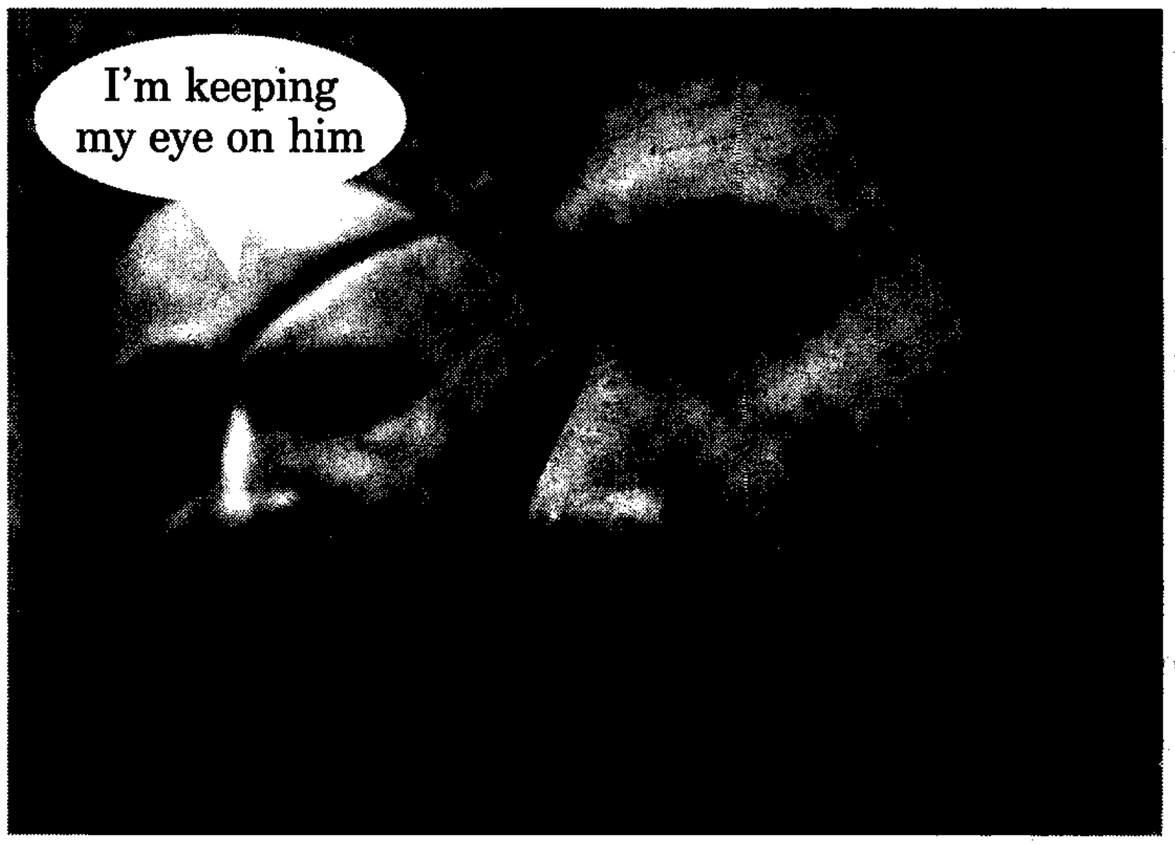
WORLD WAR THREE
THE WEEK IN PICTURES

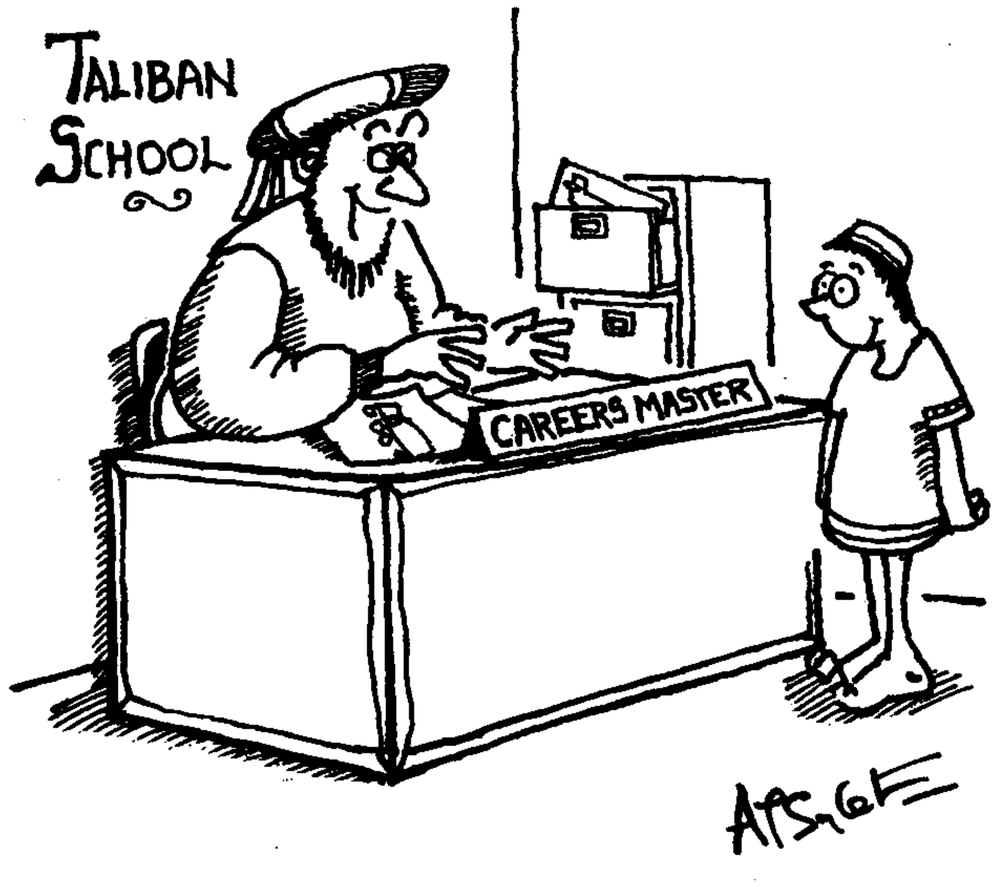
LABOUR CONFERENCE SPECIAL



BERLUSCONI SPEAKS

TALIBAN ADMIT HARBOURING BIN LADEN





"And what would you like to be when you blow up?"

POETRY CORNER

Lines on the departure of Phil Mitchell from the cast of EastEnders

So. Farewell then
Phil Mitchell.
You are leaving
EastEnders.

It is the end of
An era.
No one will ever forget
Where they were
When they read the news,
On the front page of
The Sun.

One thing is certain.
The world will never
Be the same
Again.

E.J. Thribb (17½)

Correction

So. Hullo again
Phil Mitchell.

Keith's Mum says
You have now put out
A statement
That you are not leaving
EastEnders
After all.

This is very confusing
For
A poet.

E.J.Thribb

12.40 F TARZAN AND HIS MATE *(1934)* **Adventure, with Johnny Weissmuller and Neil Hamilton.** *Daily Express Magazine*

ME AND MY SPOON

THIS WEEK

NO. 94
TERENCE CONRAN

● As a mark of respect after the recent events in America, this feature has been held over until further notice.

DAILY NEWSCARE

WE MUST NOT GIVE IN TO TERROR

On Other Pages

Bin Laden has nuclear weapons . 2
Nerve gas attack imminent 3
Britain is terrorists' main target . 4
Global recession now definite . . .
House prices will tumble . . . .
We're all going to die . . . . .

SURREALISM AT TATE MODERN
THIS FUR CUP AND SAUCER MAY BE SYMBOLIC OF CUNNILINGUS BUT YOU SHOULD TRY WASHING IT UP!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW EXAUSTING IT IS BEING A SEXUAL OBJECT!
HEY! I'M RUNNING LATE!
(SINGS) HELLO, DALI! YOU'RE LOOKING SWELL DALI!
THEY DON'T MAKE MOVIES LIKE THAT ANY MORE, I LOVE A WEEPIE
I'M NOT SO SURE THE REAL WORLD ISN'T MORE SURREAL NOWADAYS!
NOT TONIGHT MAN (AS IN MAN RAY) I'VE GOT THIS AWFUL HEADACHE
AS A LEADING ART CRITIC I TRY TO REMAIN IMPARTIAL, BUT I FEAR I HAVE BECOME SEXUALLY AROUSED! LETS GO TO BED!
NEWS
WAR?
HEATH

THAT HISTORIC BUSH SPEECH IN FULL

MAH fellow Americans... ask not what your country can do for you... I have a dream... we shall fight them on the television... we hold these truths to be self-evident... oh what a beautiful morning... an iron curtain has descended... veni vidi vici... they shall not grow old... zippideedooda... never in the field of human conflict was so much effort made by so many to find so few... ich bin ein Binliner... that's all folks...

(Standing ovation... senators weep... Bush hailed as greatest statesman since his dad.)

What He May Look Like Now

THE world's top intelligence experts believe that the world's most wanted terrorist Osama bin Liner will by now have had a complete make-over. He will almost certainly have shaved off his beard, put on a pair of heavy-framed glasses and adopted a bogus upper-English accent. The picture above shows a CIA computer-generated image of what Bin Liner now looks like.

Exclusive To All Newspapers

TRAPPED IN THE DARK AGES PREPARING FOR BATTLE

by Our Reporter Inside Afghanistan
WILL THISMAKEMEFAMOUS

AFTER three days' journeying, clad in traditional Arab garb so as to pass unnoticed through countless Taliban checkpoints, I reached the ancient village of Abdurazek, a town in a state of raw nervousness and mediaeval squalor.

I crossed a square of shops, where the only thing on sale seemed to be the fear that clung to every doorway. There I approached a young girl of no more than ten, her head shrouded in a veil, standing nervously by a well that had long since dried up under this repressive regime.

"Are you apprehensive about the American military strikes to come?" I asked.

In a trembling voice, whose courage will live with me forever, she replied, "No, I'm John Simpson in disguise. Go away, you twat."

Surely this message to the world from these simple, brave, people show a determination and spirit that cannot be... *(Cont. p. 94)*

HELLO!

TOP WORLD TERRORIST OZZY BIN LADEN WELCOMES US INTO HIS CAVE

THE handsome bearded face creased into a smile. "I never thought you'd find me," joked the world's most famous terrorist, Osama "Ozzy" Bin Laden, as he proudly showed me round his new cave.

"I've only been here a couple of hours," he said, "but already it's home."

Osama is delightfully down-to-earth, despite his status as the world's No.1 celebrity mass-murderer.

His charming cave is tastefully decorated with Afghan wall-hangings and state-of-the-art ground-to-air missile systems.

Any reader of Hello! might envy Ozzy's simple lifestyle in his remote hideaway, with its breathtaking views of distant snow-capped mountains and smiling peasants being strung up from lamp-posts by the Taliban.

I asked him first whether he ever got lonely, in his dedicated mission to destroy the civilised world.

"Allah is good to me," he said, with a shy smile, referring to the world's most famous Islamic divinity, whom Bin Laden regards as a close friend.

"But don't you miss your 529 brothers and sisters?" I asked.

"We keep in touch via the newspapers," he explained, "where they can read about me every day."

"It must be very difficult for you, being so rich and famous," I suggested. "Doesn't the pressure ever get to you?"

"No," he smiled, "because I enjoy using my wealth and my fame to do bad in the world."

I thanked this shy star of the world stage for giving up the time to talk to us, and opening his heart to us in such a delightful fashion.

© HELLO! MAGAZINE

Grand Pentagon 'Name That War' Competition!!!

■ *NOW you choose the codename for the operation that is to rid the world of terrorism for ever (but without offending anyone)*

☐ **1**. Operation Infinite Justice

☐ **2**. Operation Enduring Freedom

☐ **3**. Operation Enduring Infinity

☐ **4**. Desert Storm II

☐ **5**. World War III

☐ **6**. The 94th Crusade

☐ **7**. Carry On Up The Khyber

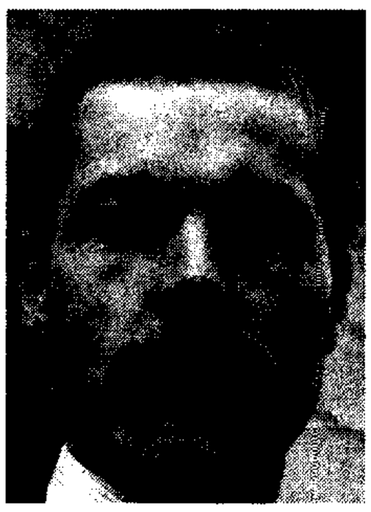
☐ **8**. Pearl Harbor – The Remake

☐ **9**. Taliban – The Bomb

☐ **10**. Colin Powell's Dance To The Music Of Time Magazine

(That's enough war names. Ed.)

What He May Look Like Now



THE world's top intelligence experts believe that the world's most wanted terrorist Osama bin Liner will by now have had a complete make-over. He will almost certainly have shaved off his beard, grown a small moustache and disappeared to somewhere in Southern Africa. The picture above shows a CIA computer-generated image of what Bin Liner now looks like.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Charles Moore

THIS is the signature of Charles Moore, the editor of the Daily Telegraph, signing the contract to pay three graphologists to inform us on his front page what Osama bin Laden is like by analysing his signature.

But what does this signature reveal about Charles? Three leading 'crapologists' have studies his signature, and concluded that this is almost definitely the work of a desperate man who is probably frightened that his readers might be bored of proper reporting and has in all likelihood taken the decision to fill the front page with some rubbish instead.

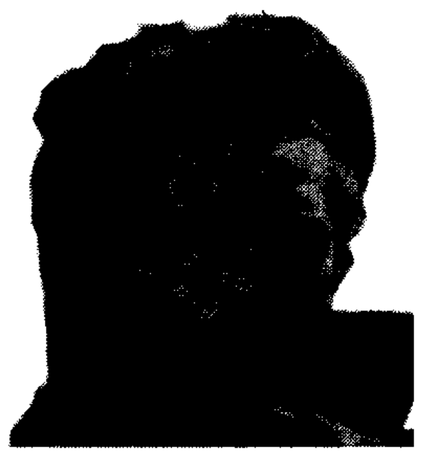
23 Nights Departing October 14th

NO FLYING! Dover, Gibraltar, Sardinia, Malta, Sicily, Itea (Greece), Transit Corinth Canal, Piraeus (overnightt), Santorini, Rhodes, Crete, Lampedusa (Pelagic Islands), Tunisia, Motreil (Spain), Dover.

CRUISE WORLD'S BULK PURCHASE OF CABINS! GUARANTEED OFFER!

Cruise World advertisement

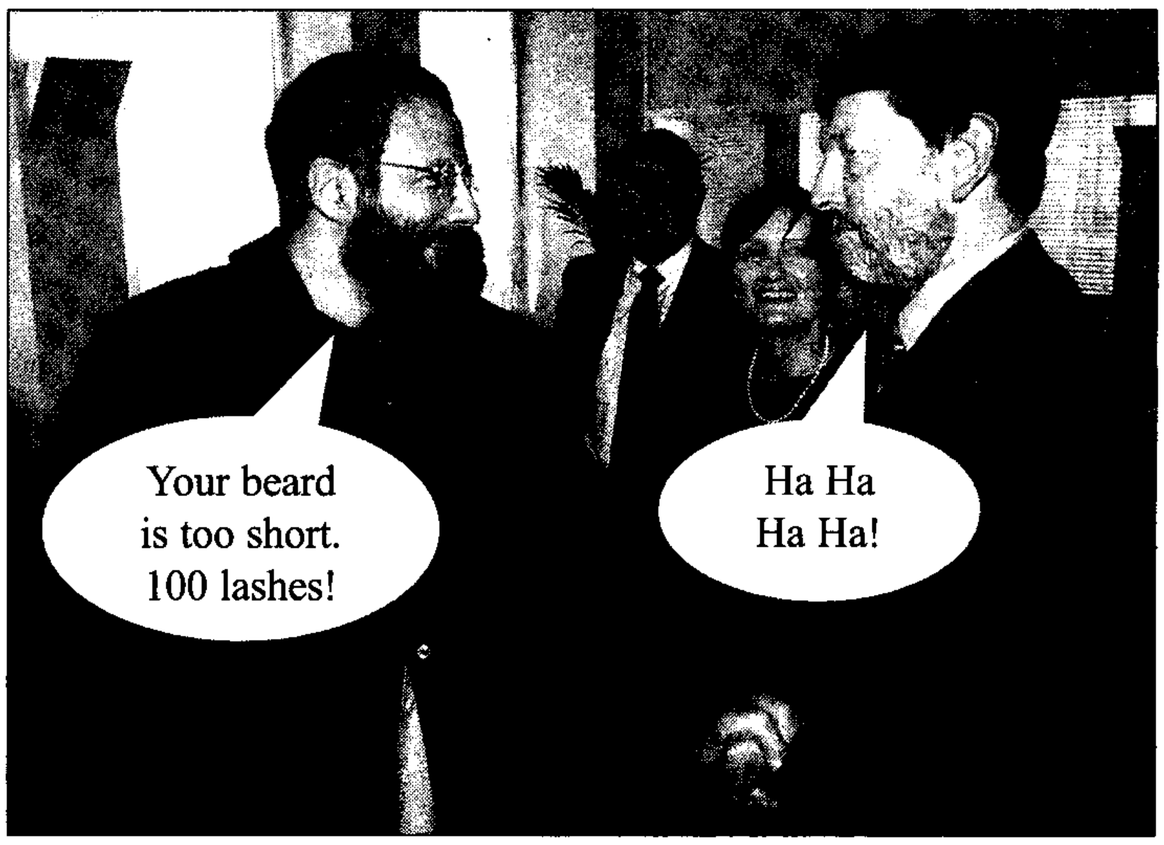
HOW TO TELL A TERRORIST FROM A MEMBER OF THE WORLDWIDE COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM



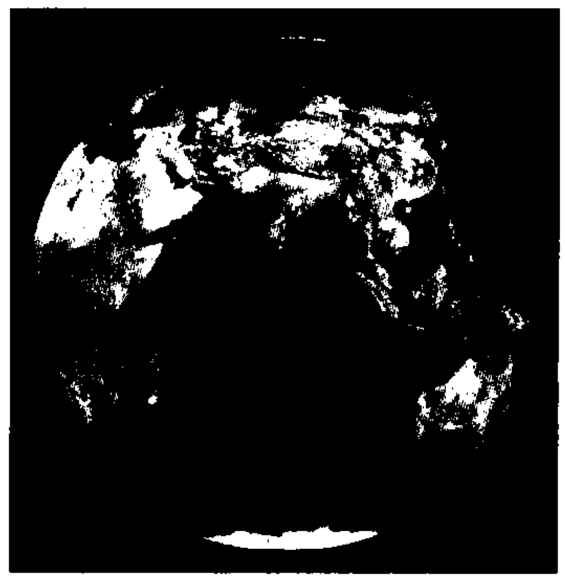
Genuine Terrorist

Genuine Friend of Democracy

BLUNKETT MEETS YUSUF ISLAM



LATE NEWS



CIA PINPOINTS LOCATION OF TERRORIST BASE

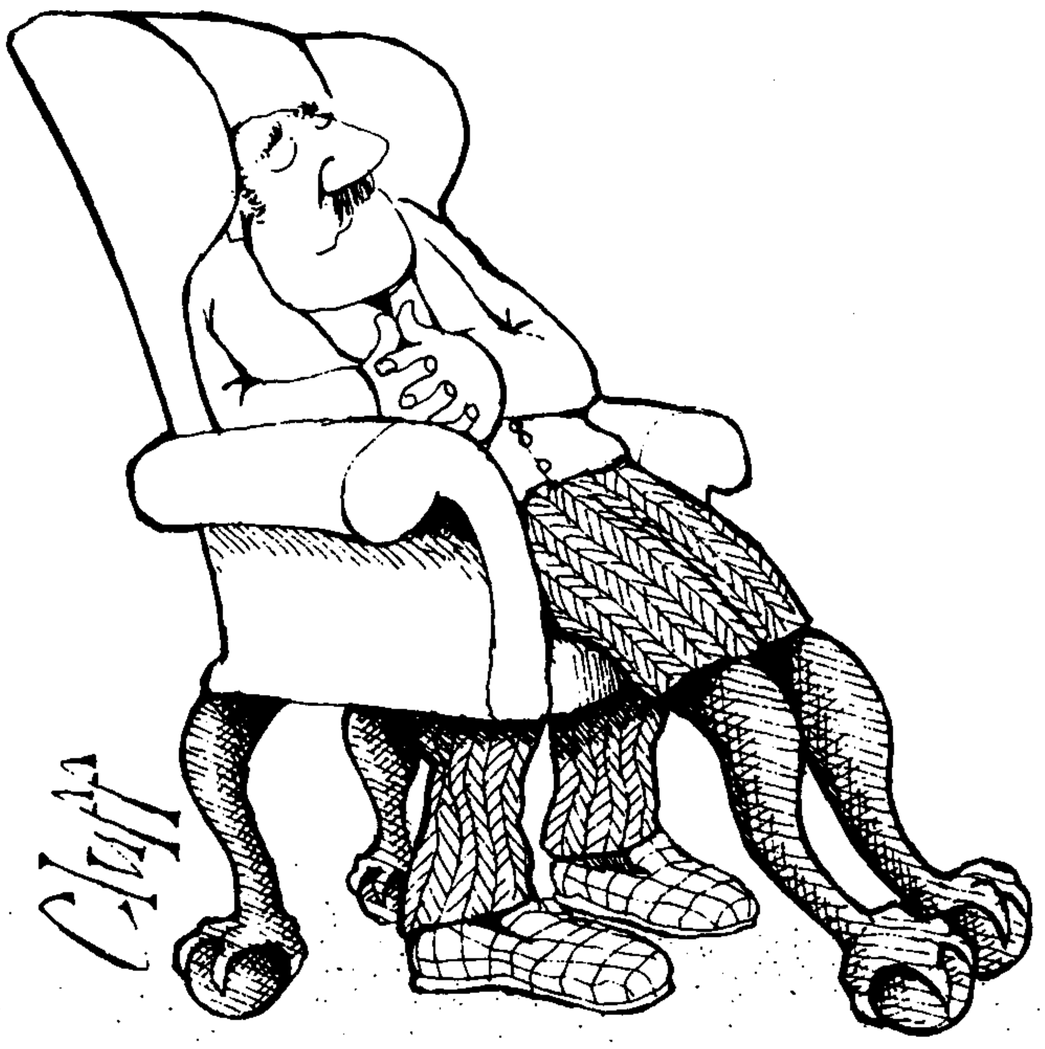
PRIVATE EYE

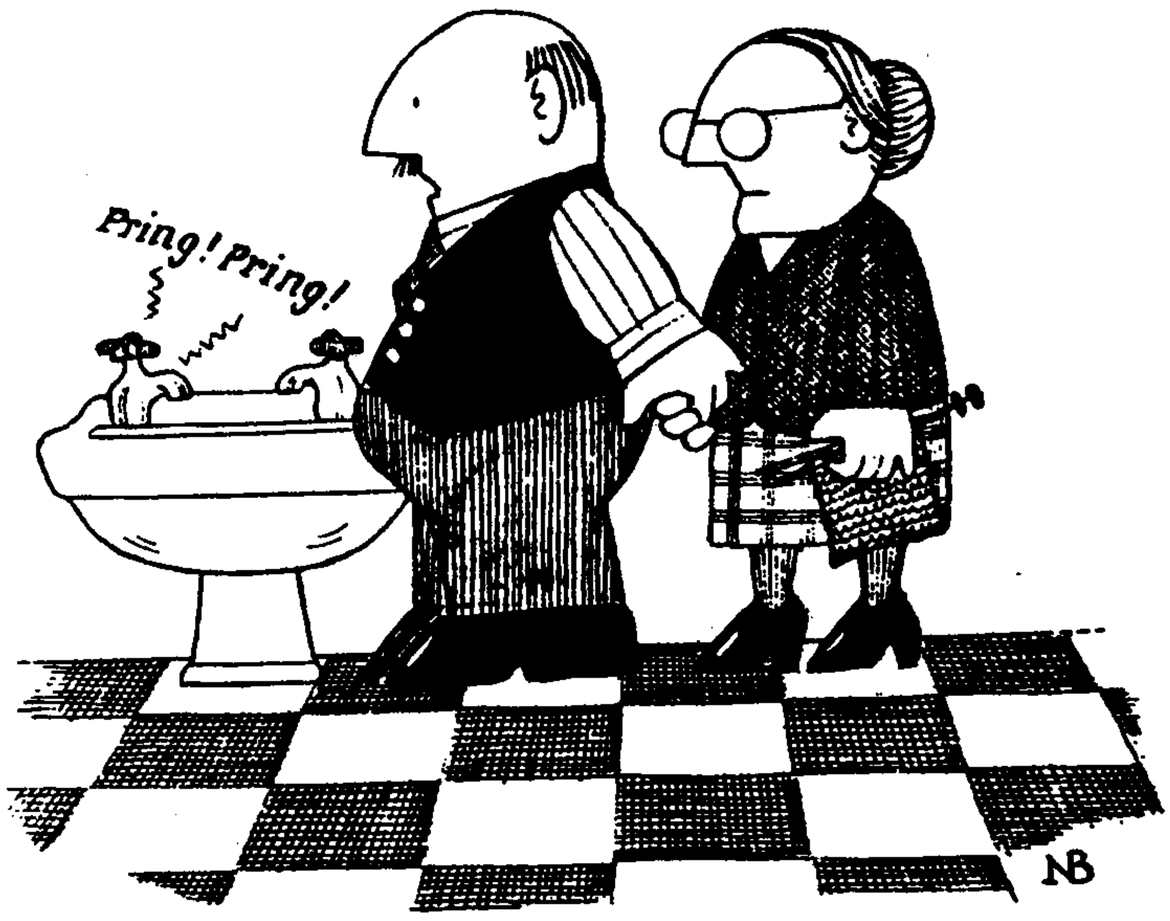
Part 3 – The 1980s

"What does it say to you?"

Become an
MD on the QT.

Plot your next career move the discreet way. **businessfile**.co.uk from telegraph.co.uk





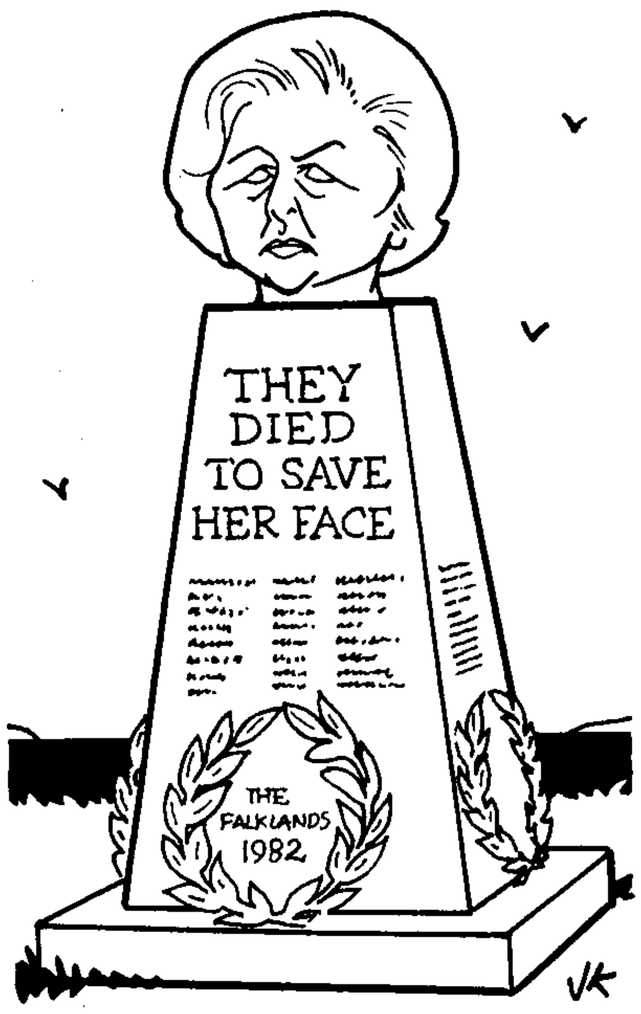
"Our tap's been phoned!"

The History of Private Eye Cartoons

Part 3

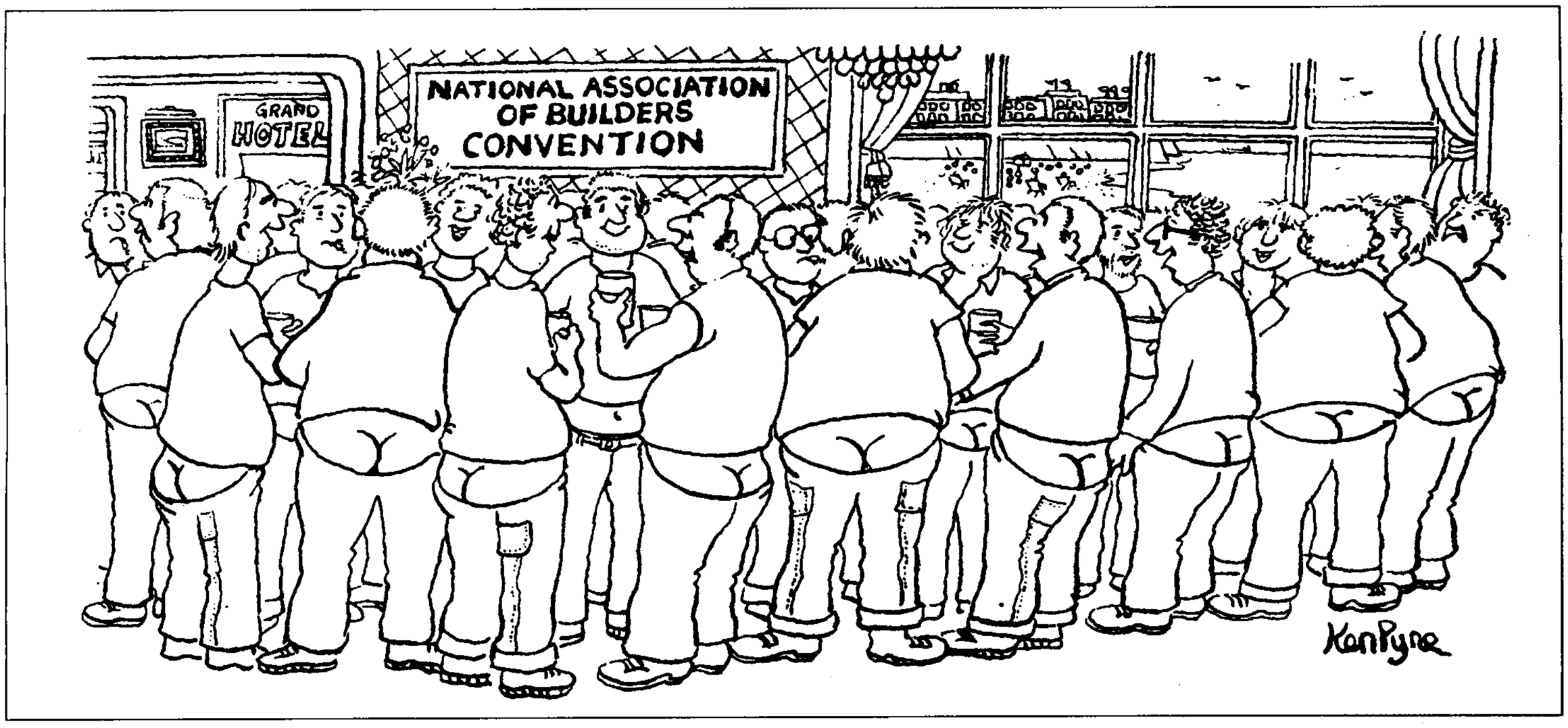
The 1980s saw war, death, famine and plague – and not only in the Eye's cartoons. The regular appearances of The Grim Reaper and his apocalyptic colleagues in the gags perhaps reflected world events, with the spread of AIDS, Recession and the Falklands conflict dominating the headlines. But as ever, the cartoonists provided blessed relief and escapism from grim reality. If Honeysett and McLachlan were the stars of the 70s, Tony Husband, Neil Bennett and Cluff illuminated the 80s. Typical, you wait ages for a classic cartoon – then they all come at once.

Nick Newman

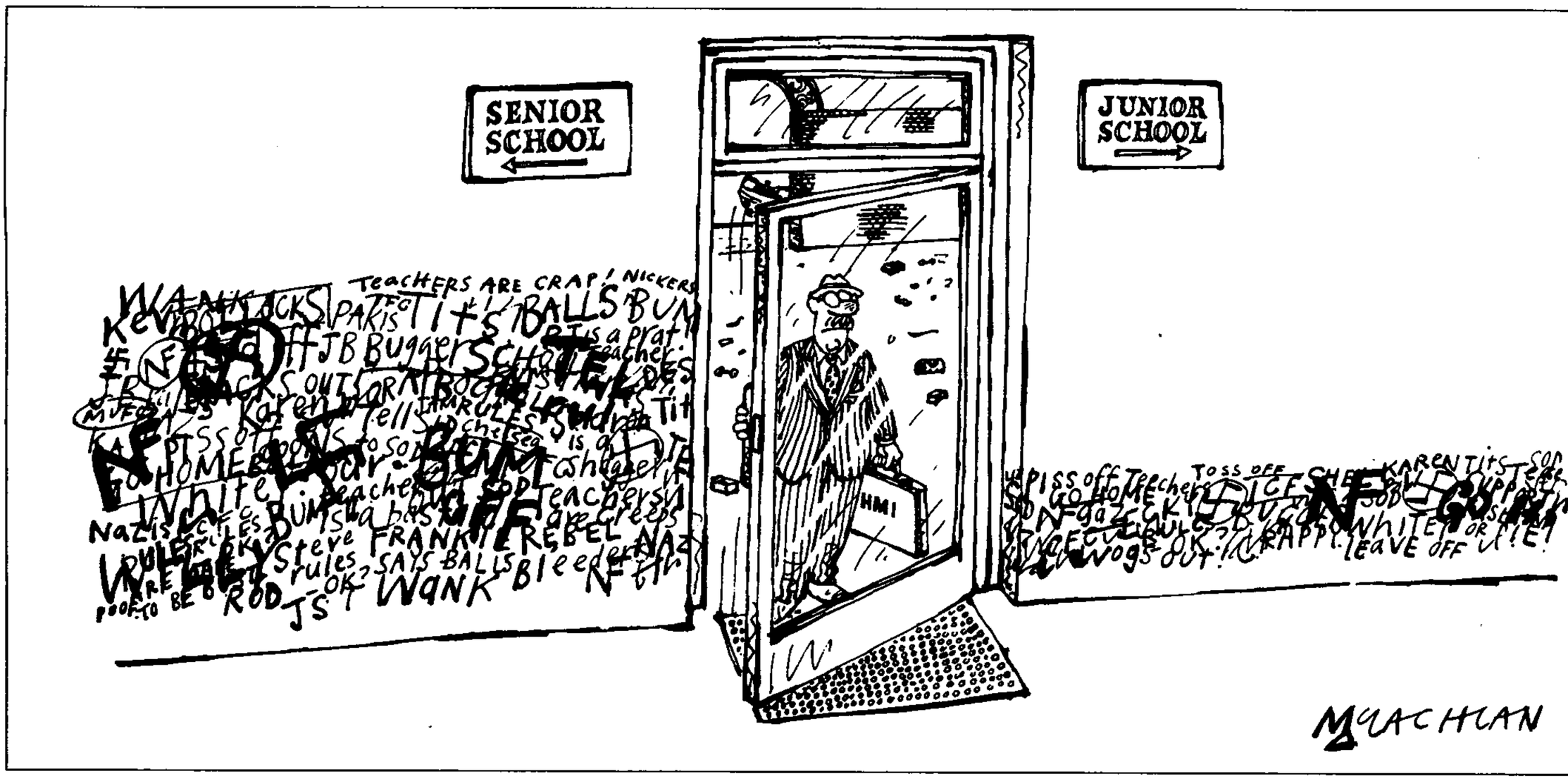


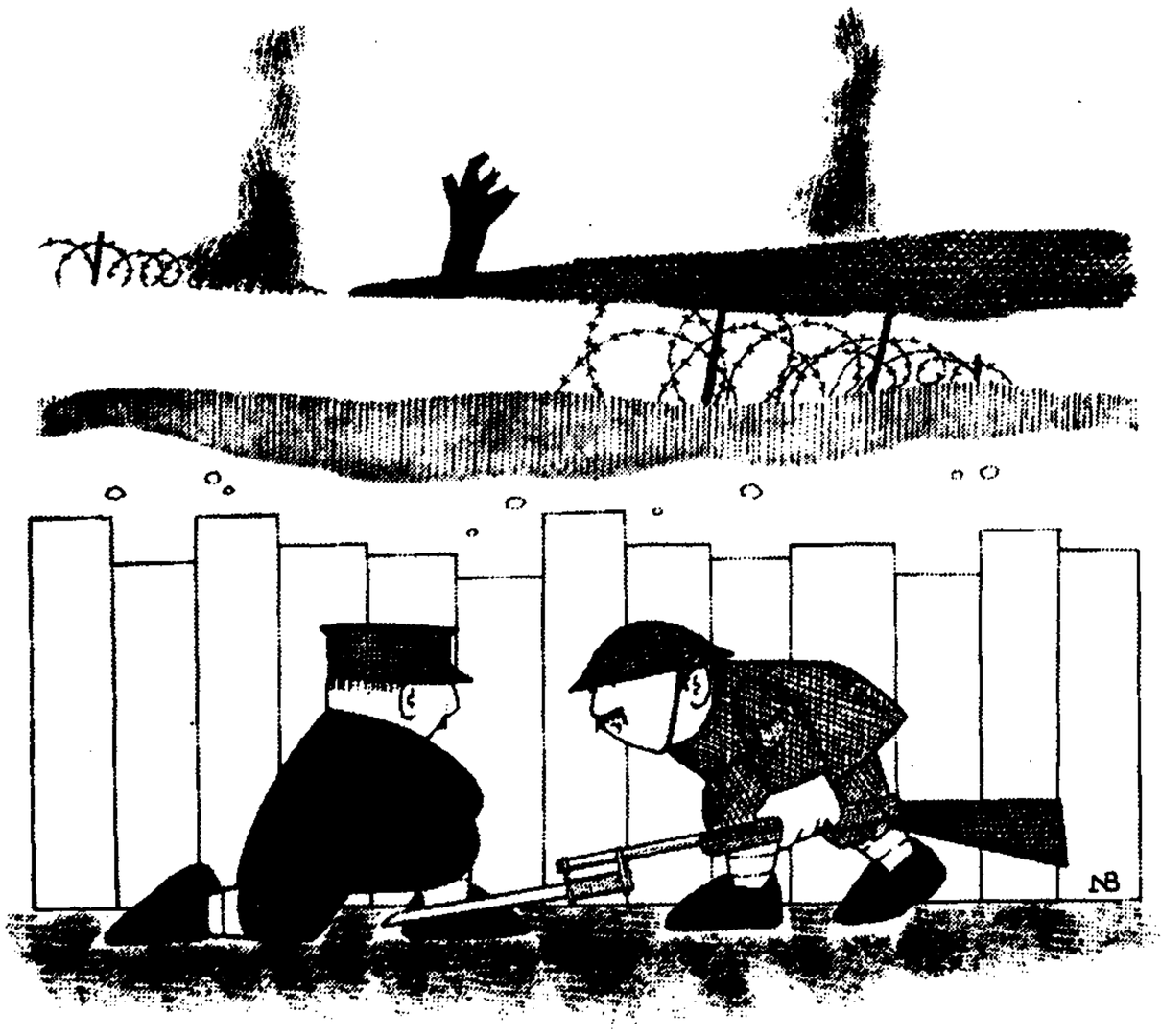
NEW WAR MEMORIAL

"How do you spell N.F.?"

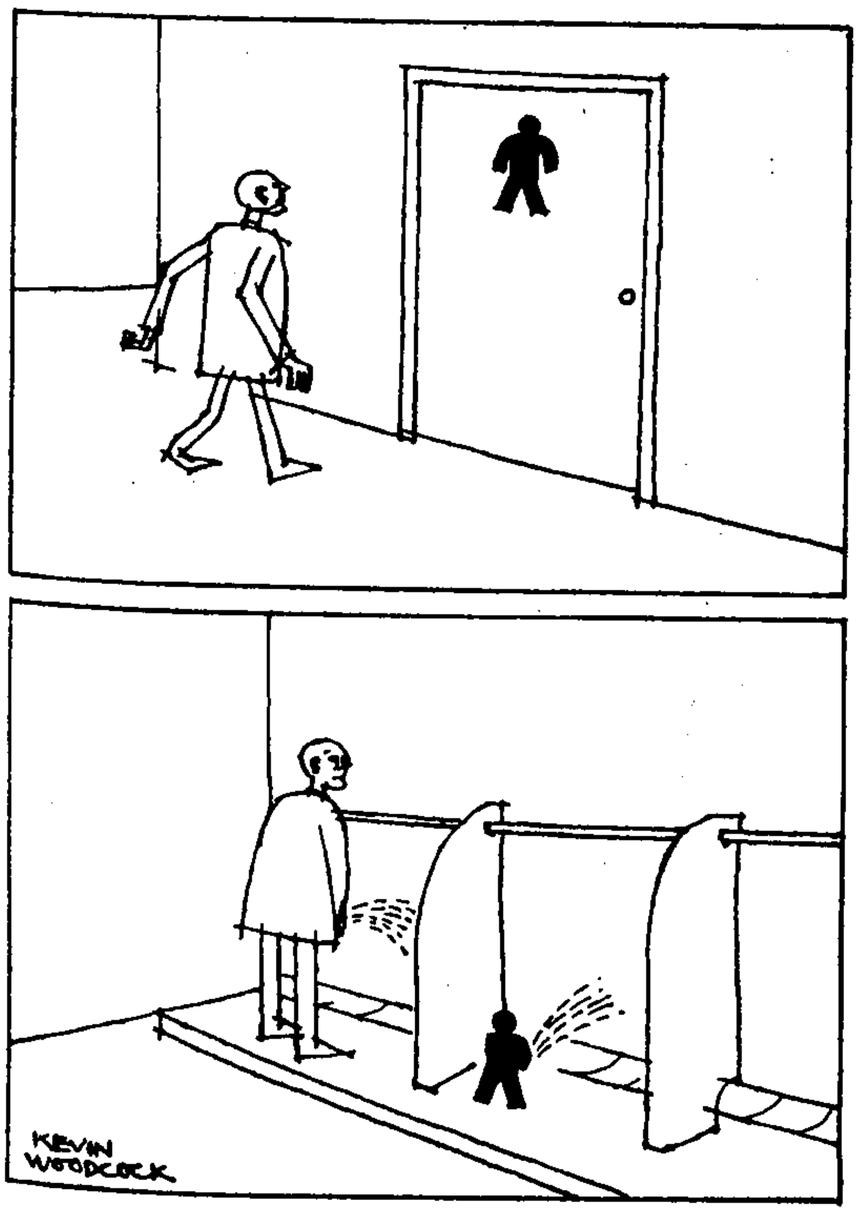


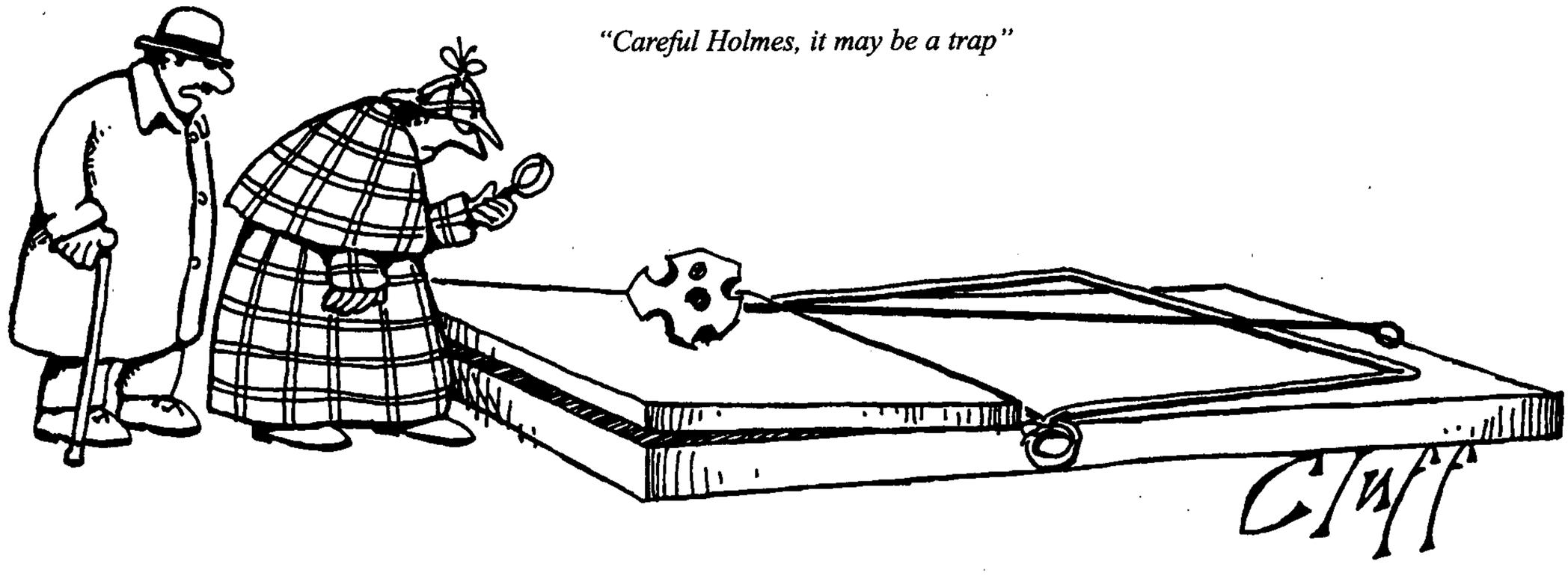
"Call my wife a tramp would you, Batley?"



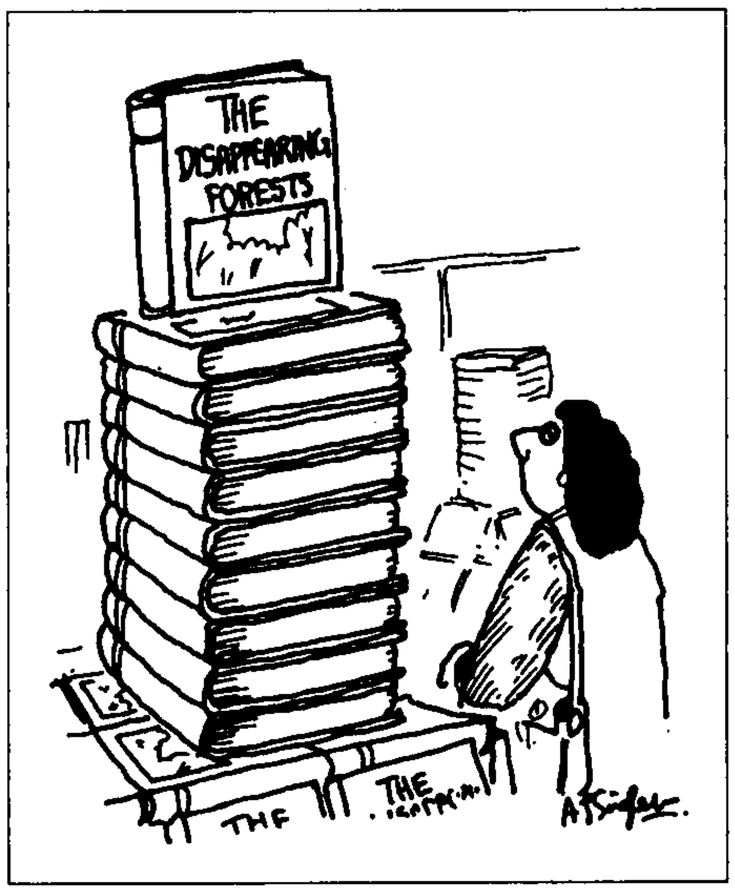


"It's desperate, sir – we're down to our last poet!"





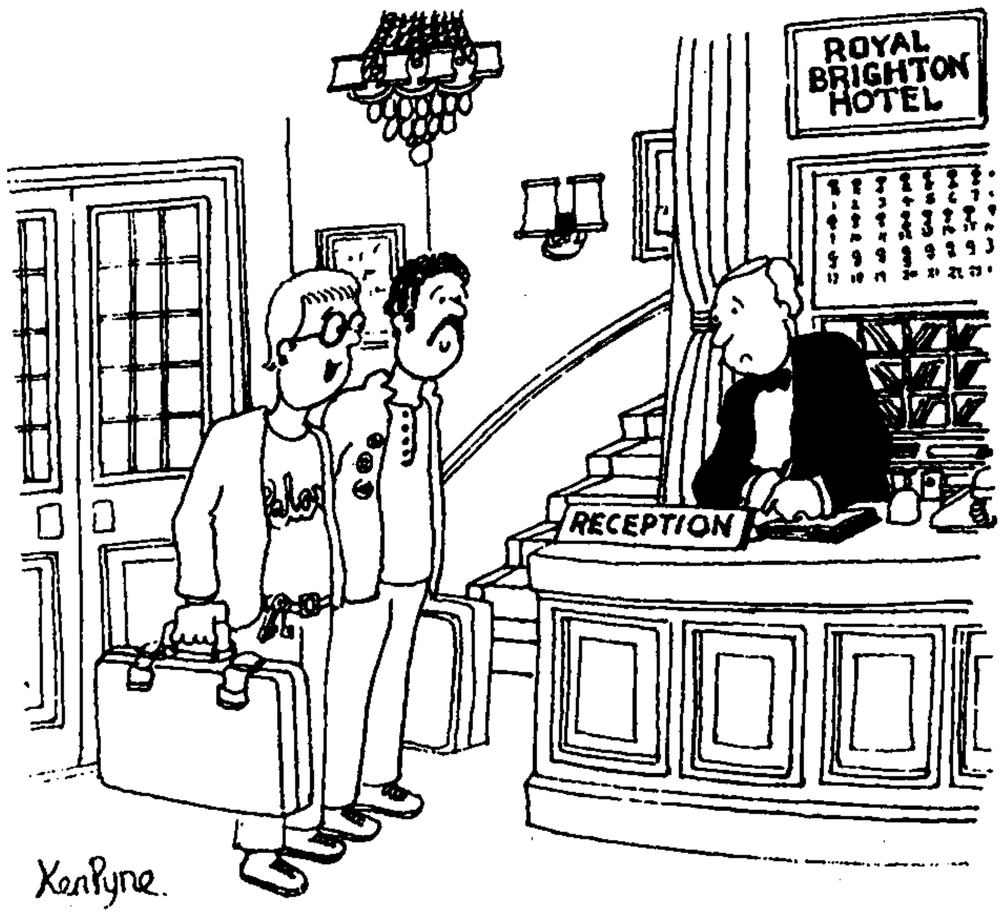
"Careful Holmes, it may be a trap"



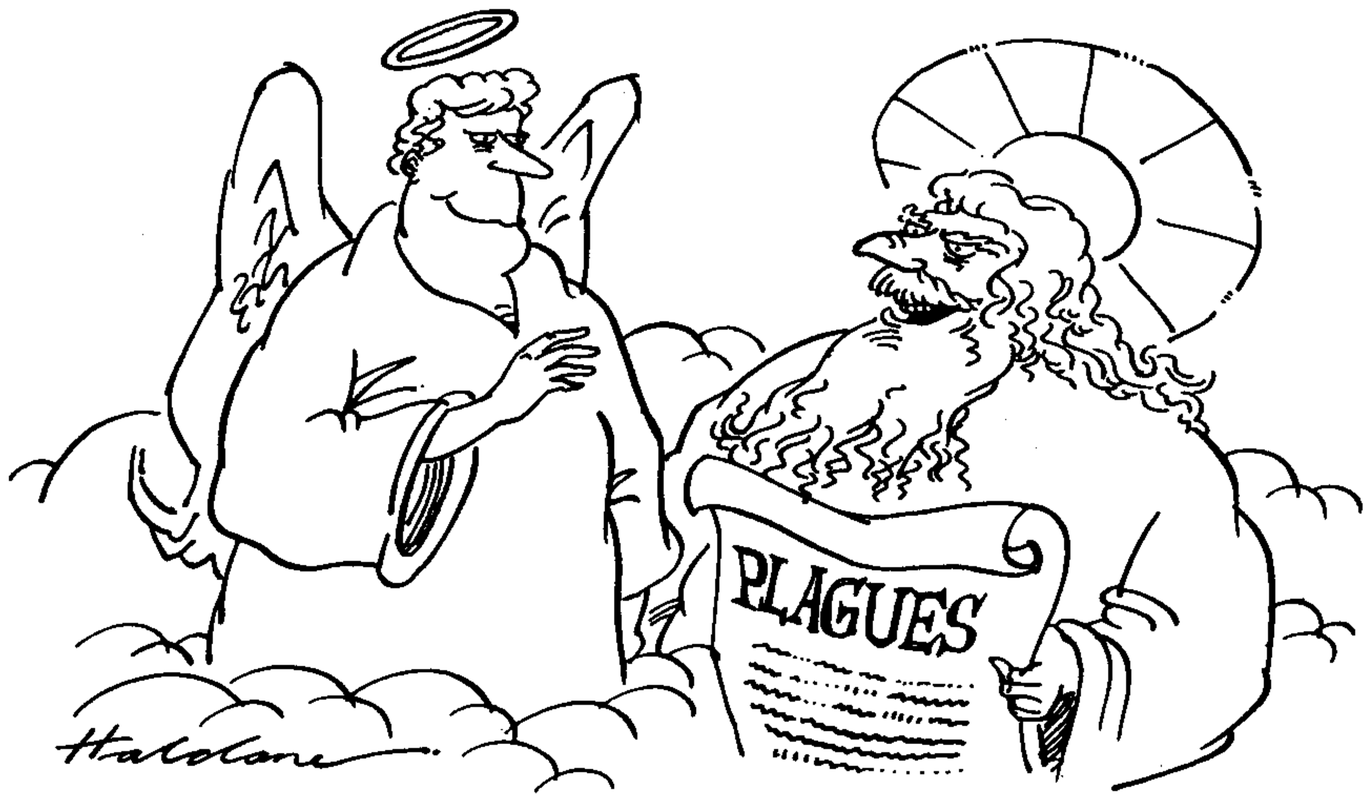
"Now don't forget to bolt your food!"

"Have you considered double glazing?"

"Typical! You wait ages for Godot, then three come at once!"



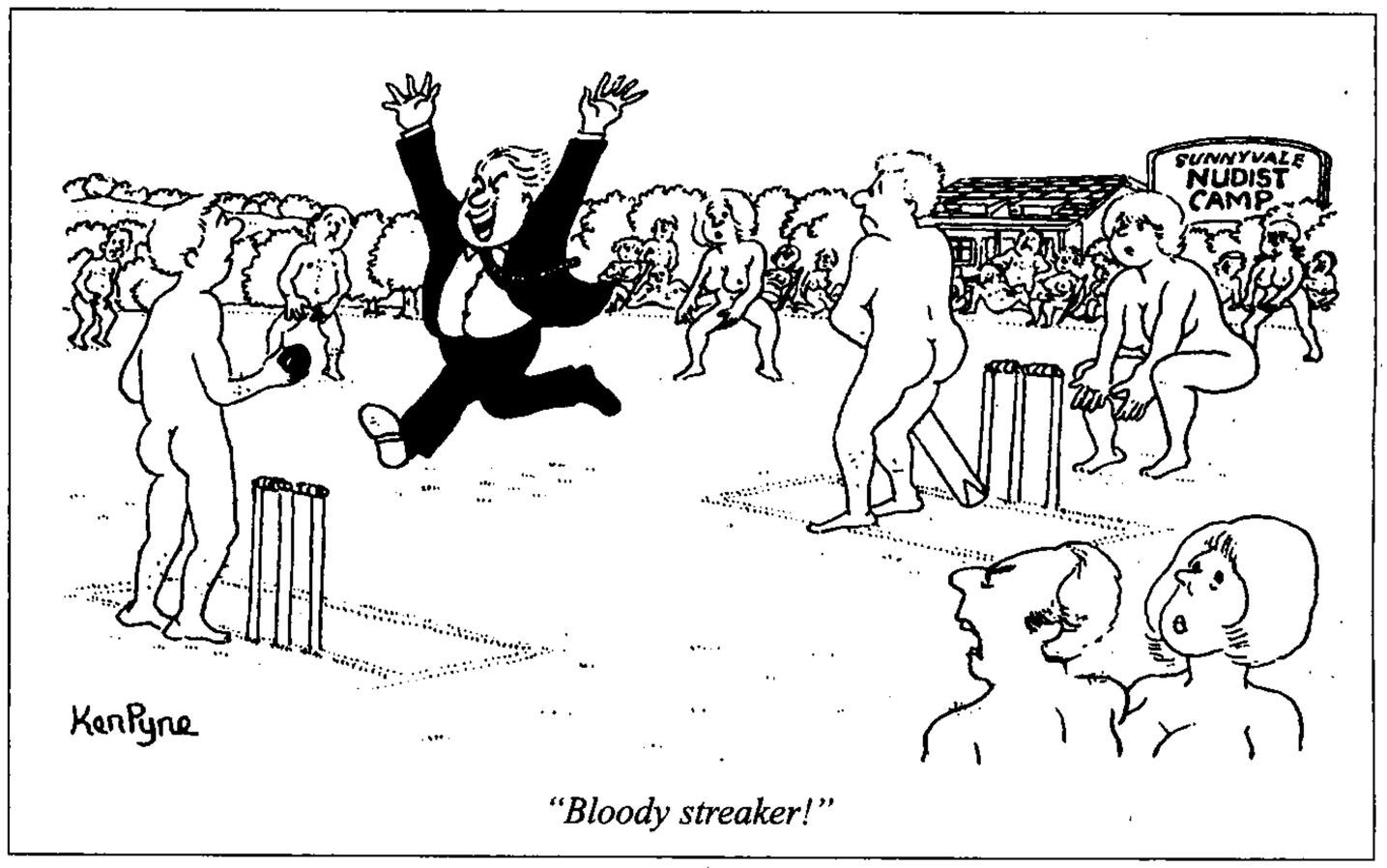
"Mr and Mr Smith"



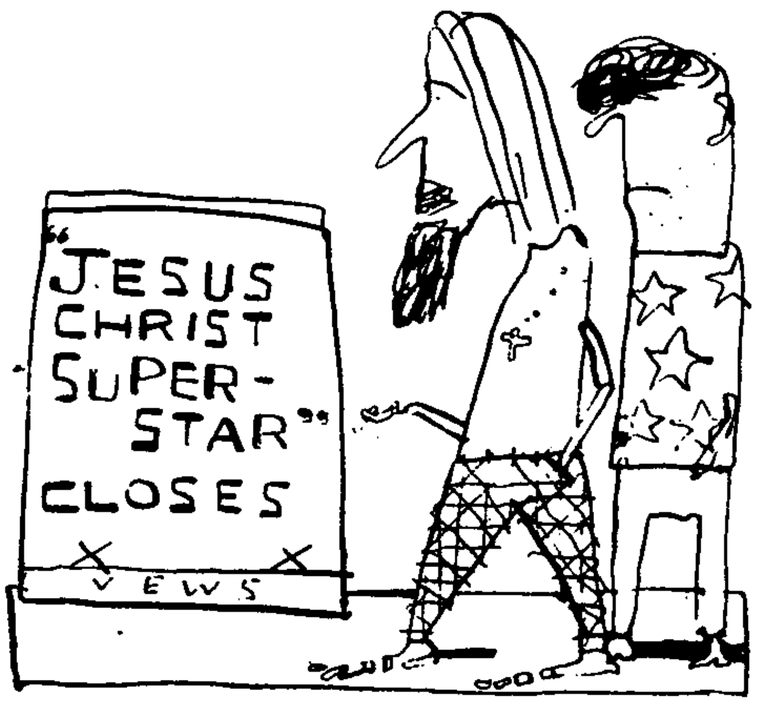
"OK. That's sorted out the homosexuals, now let's have a go at Estate Agents"

"I came here to see Mr Punch – not Mr Punch's understudy"

"Gye, gye, cruel world"

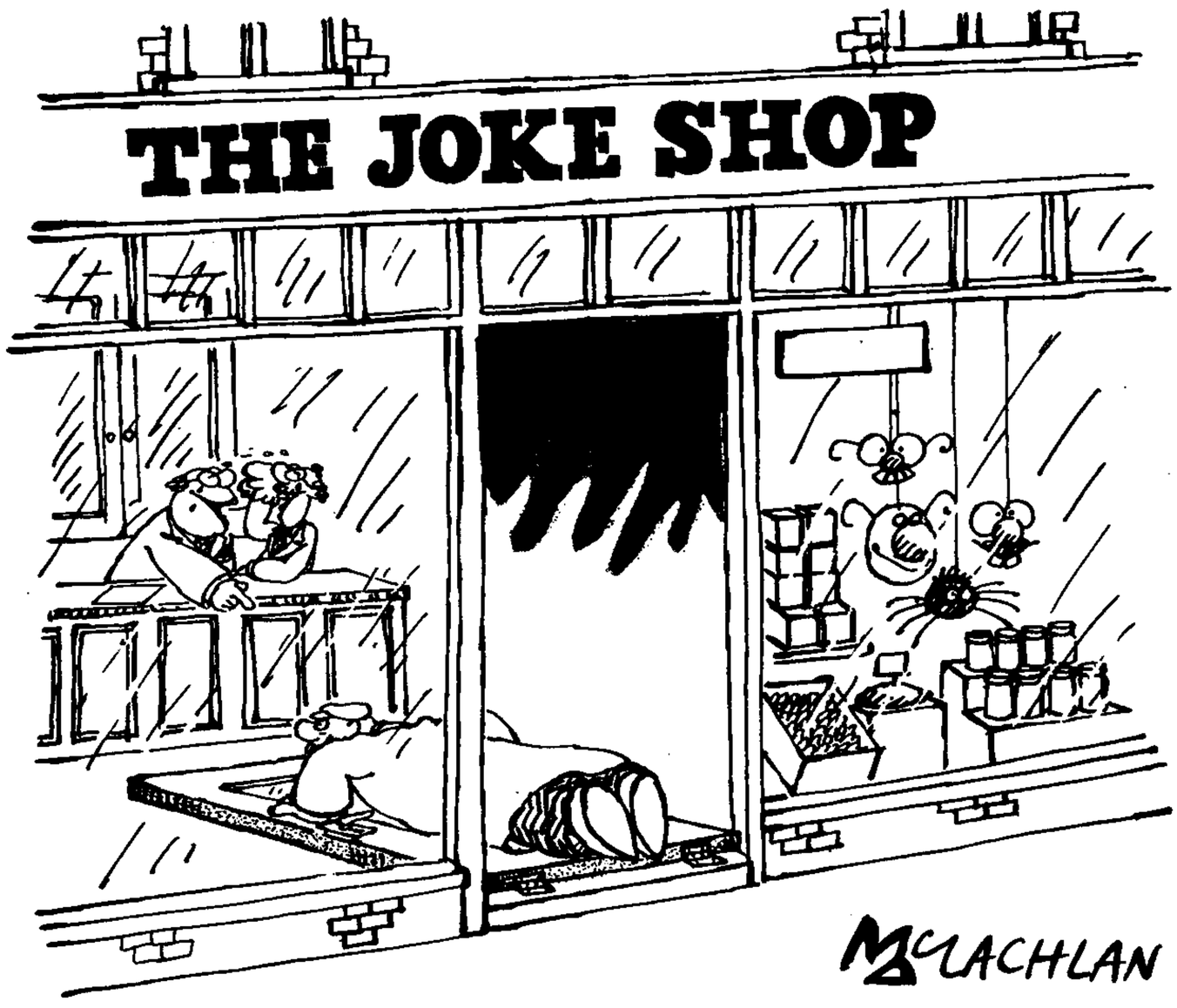


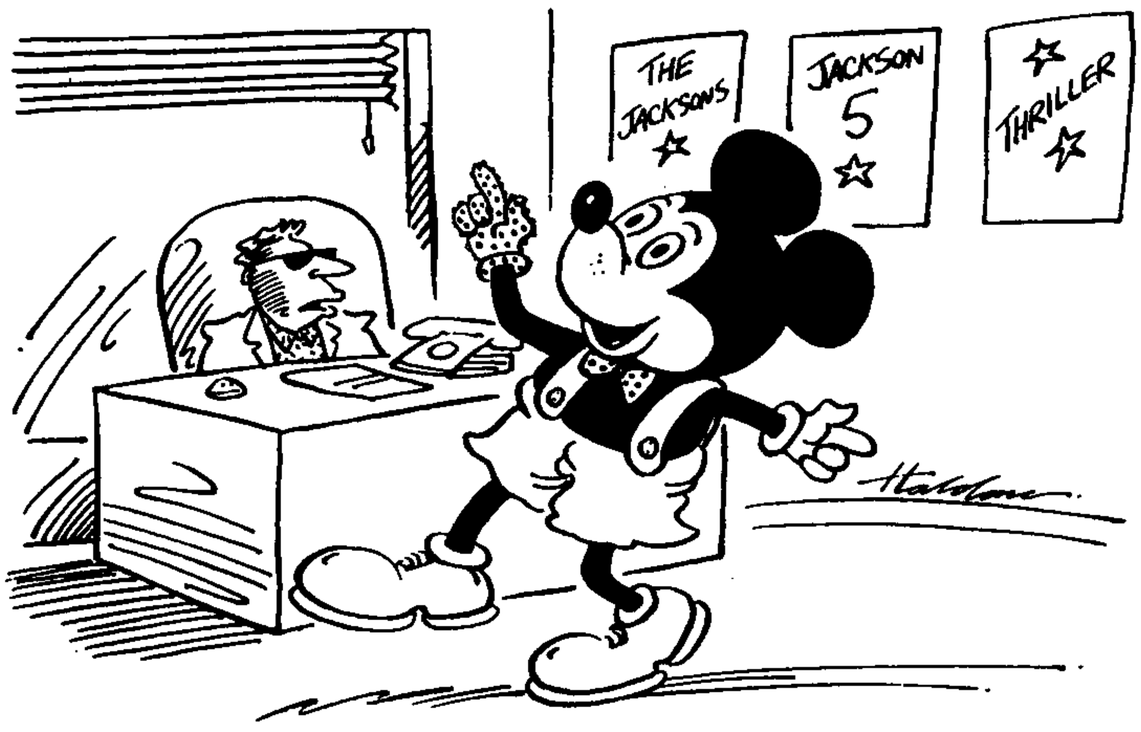
"Bloody streaker!"



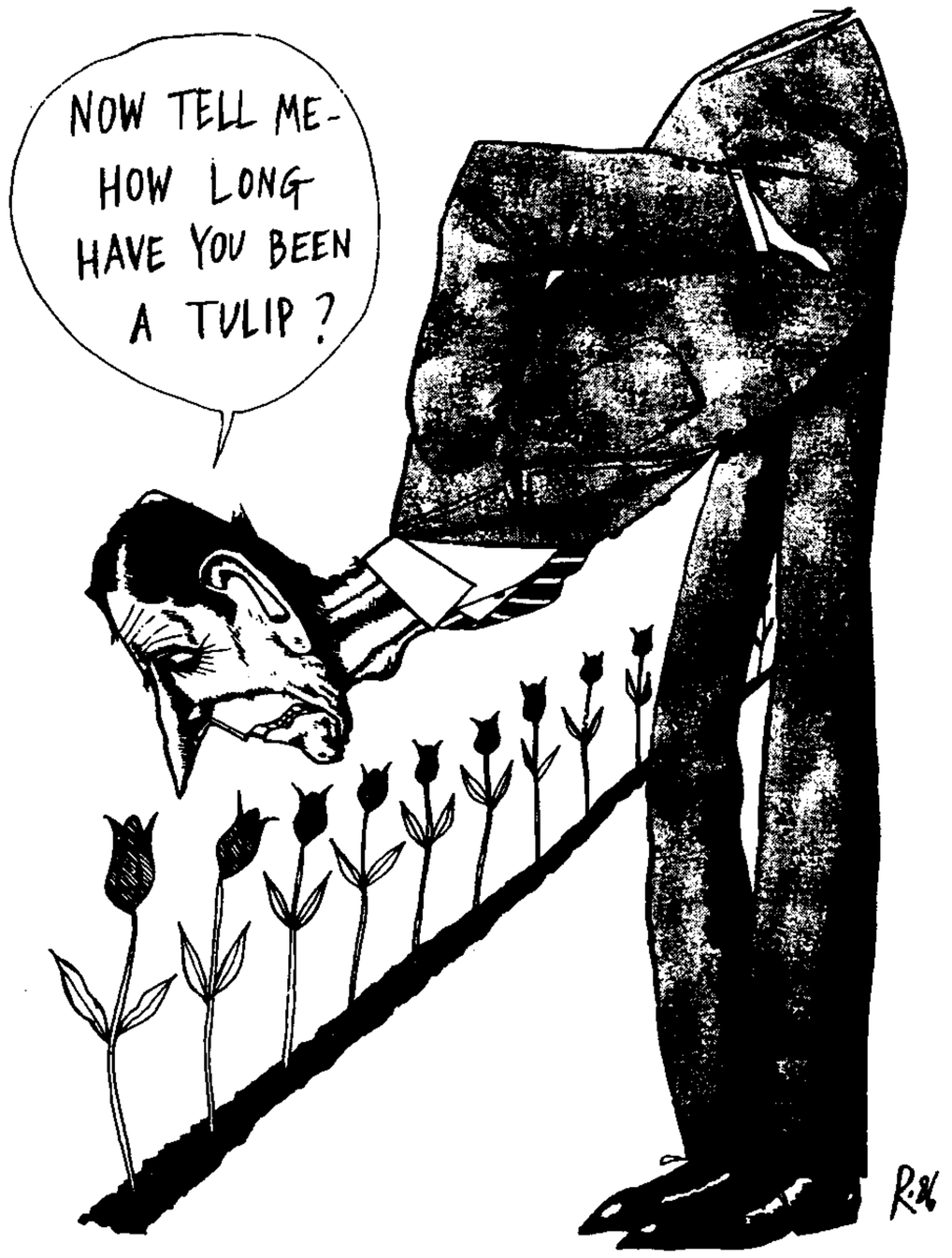
Fantoni

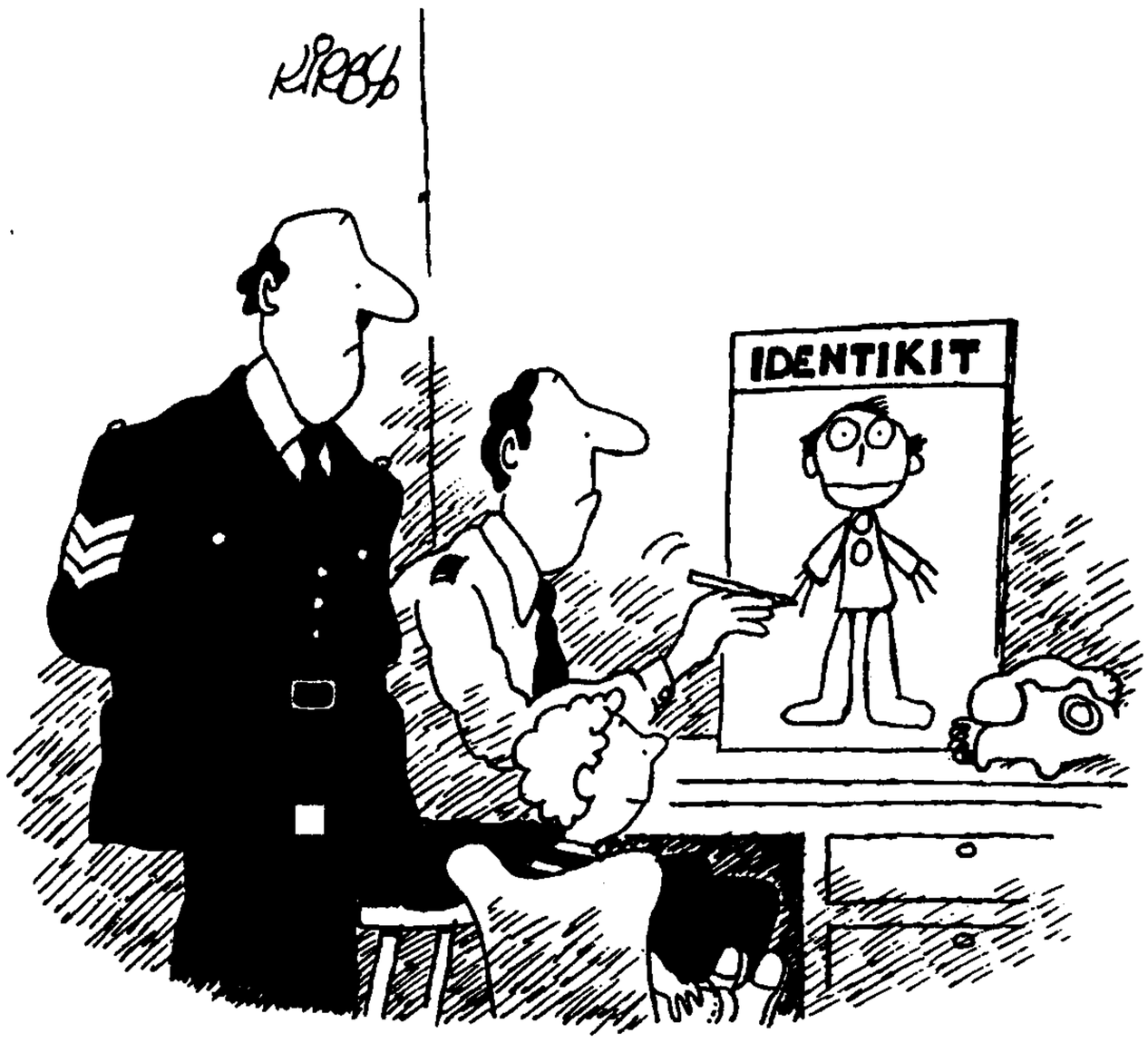
"Apparently it's going to re-open in three days"

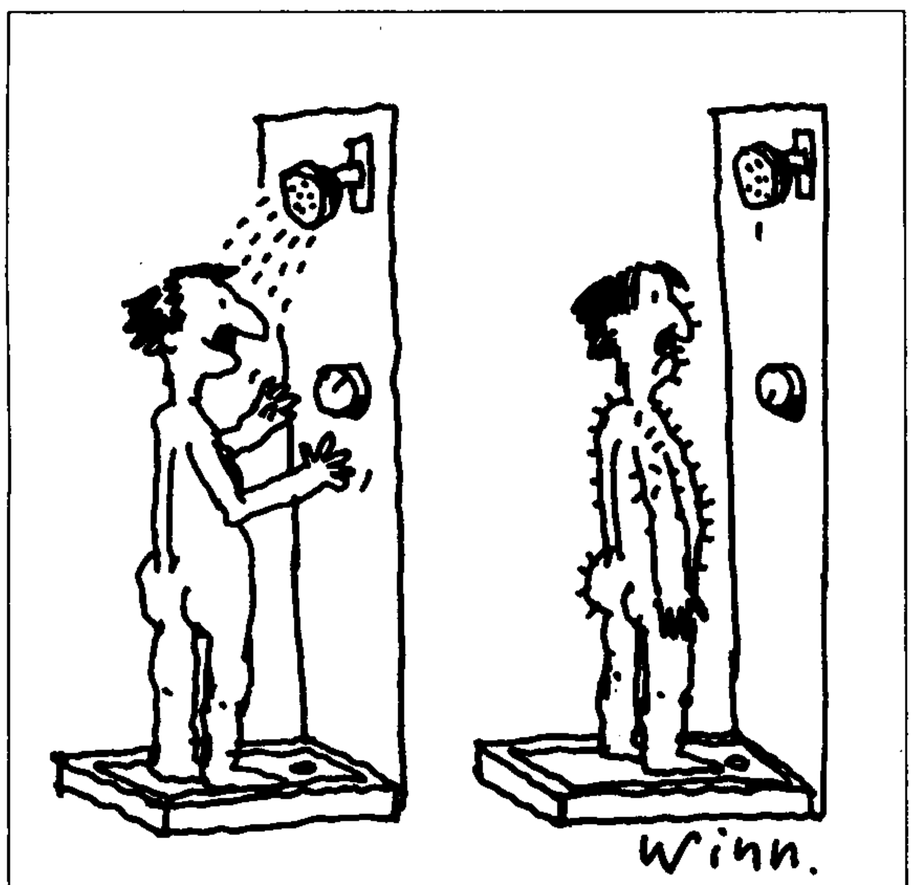




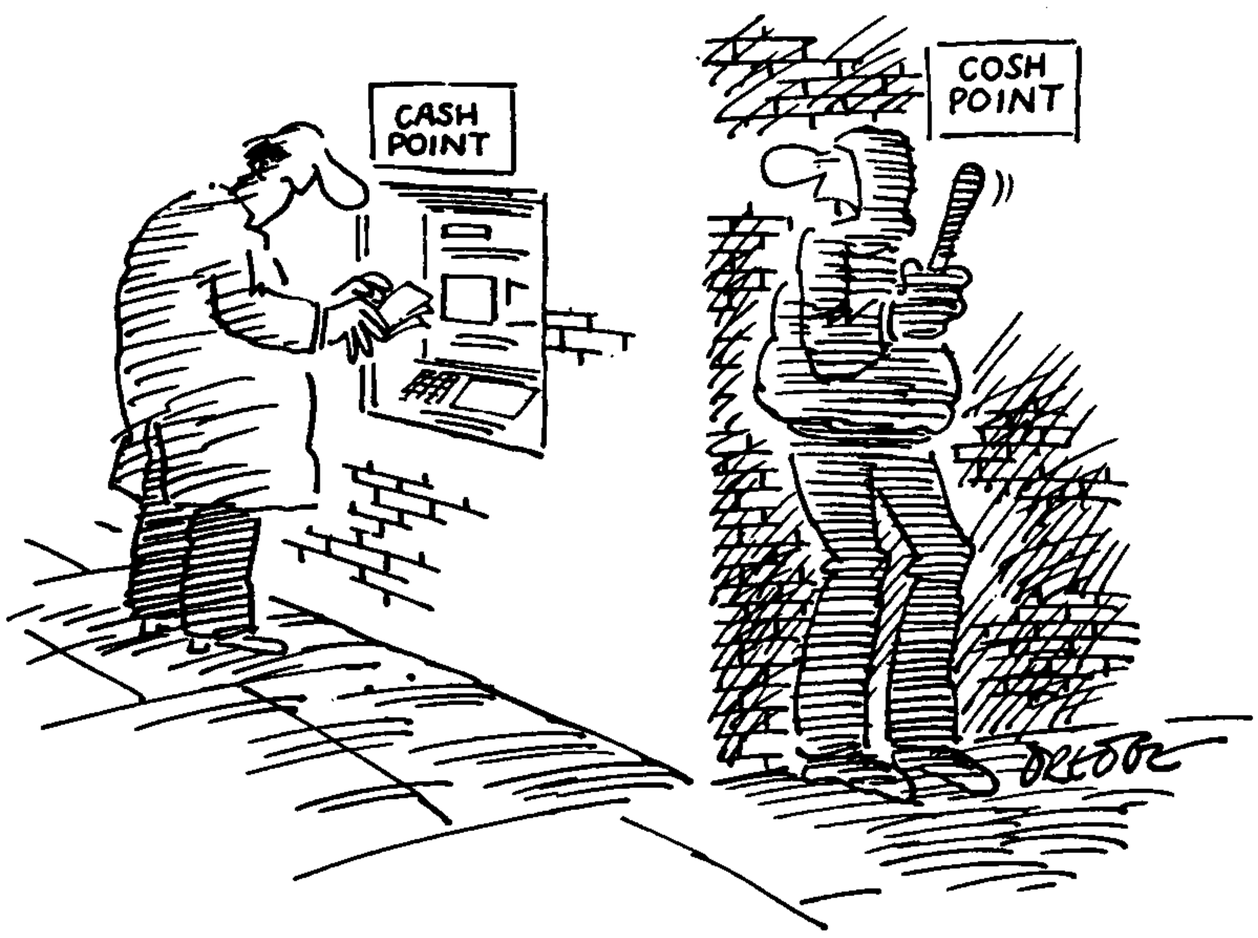
"Frankly Michael, I think it's possible to take cosmetic surgery too far"

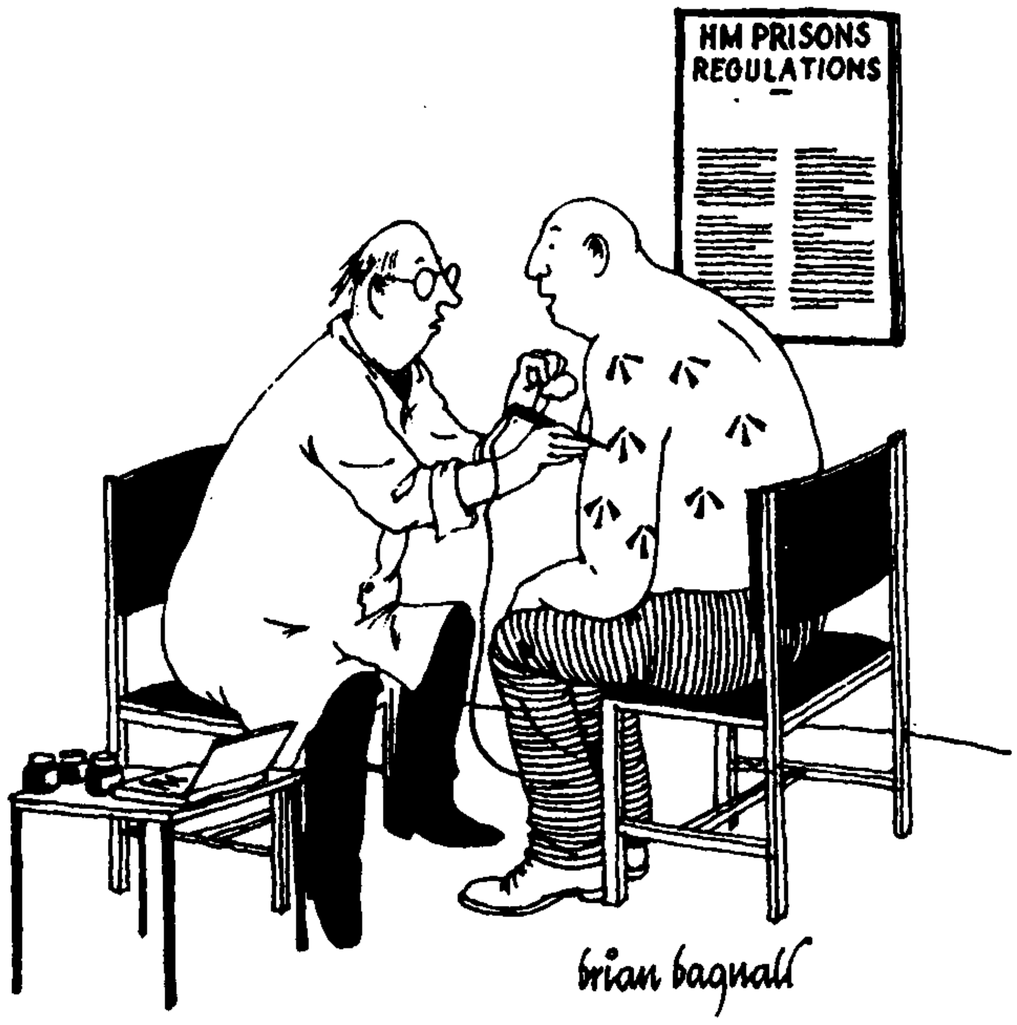






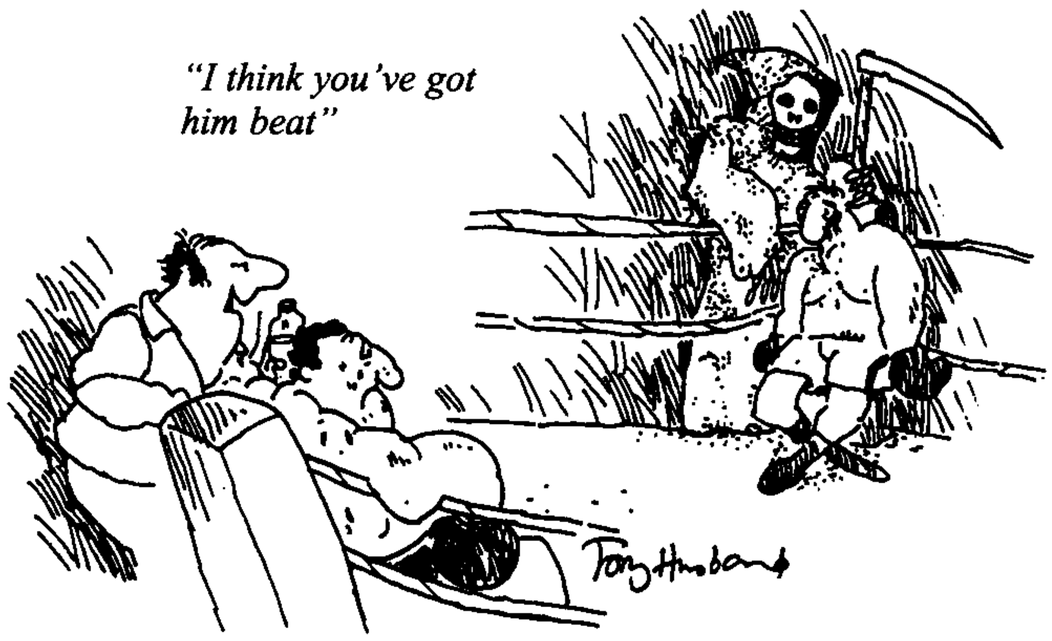
"The new manager is quite a 'go-getter', isn't he?"

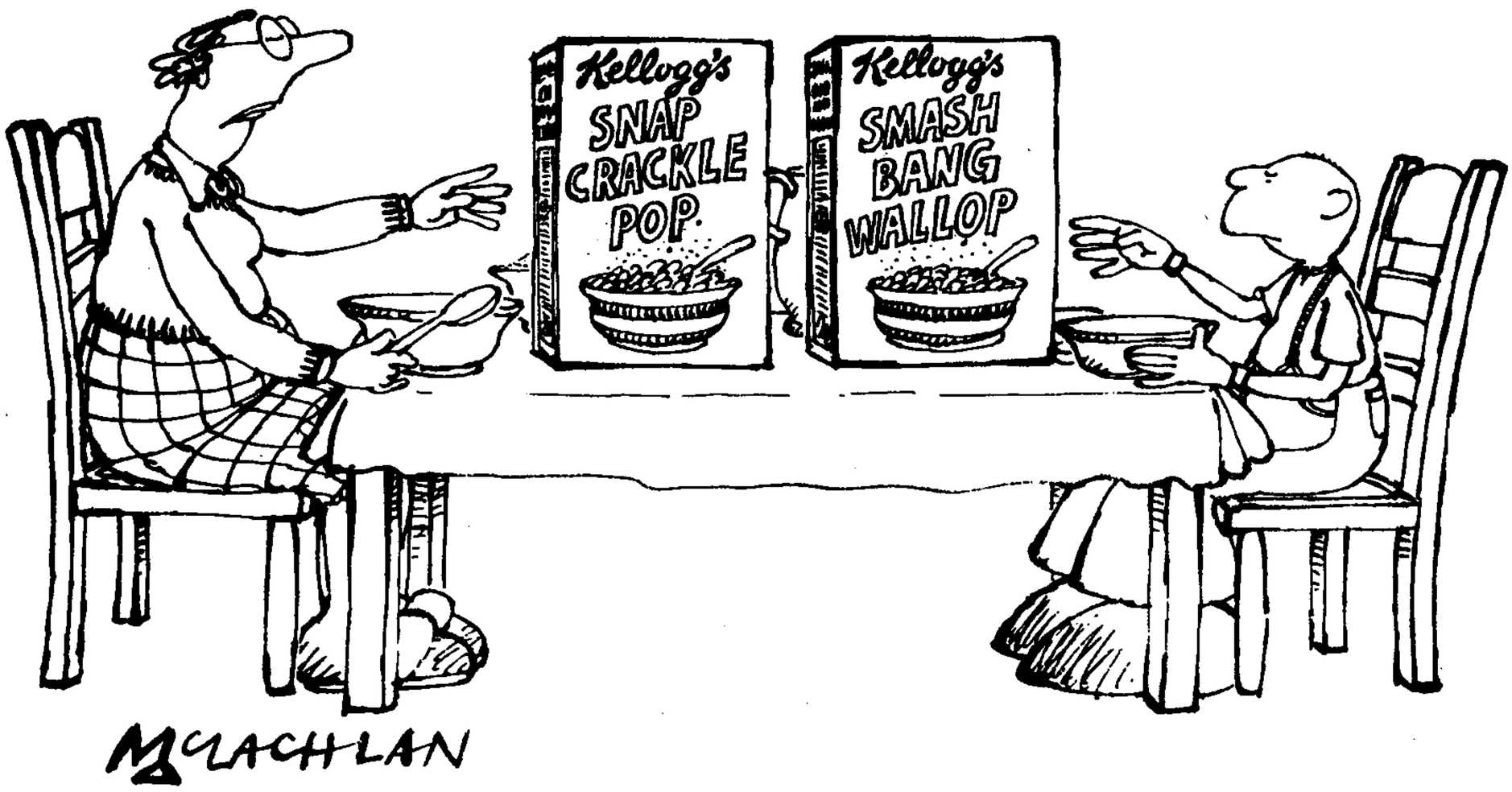


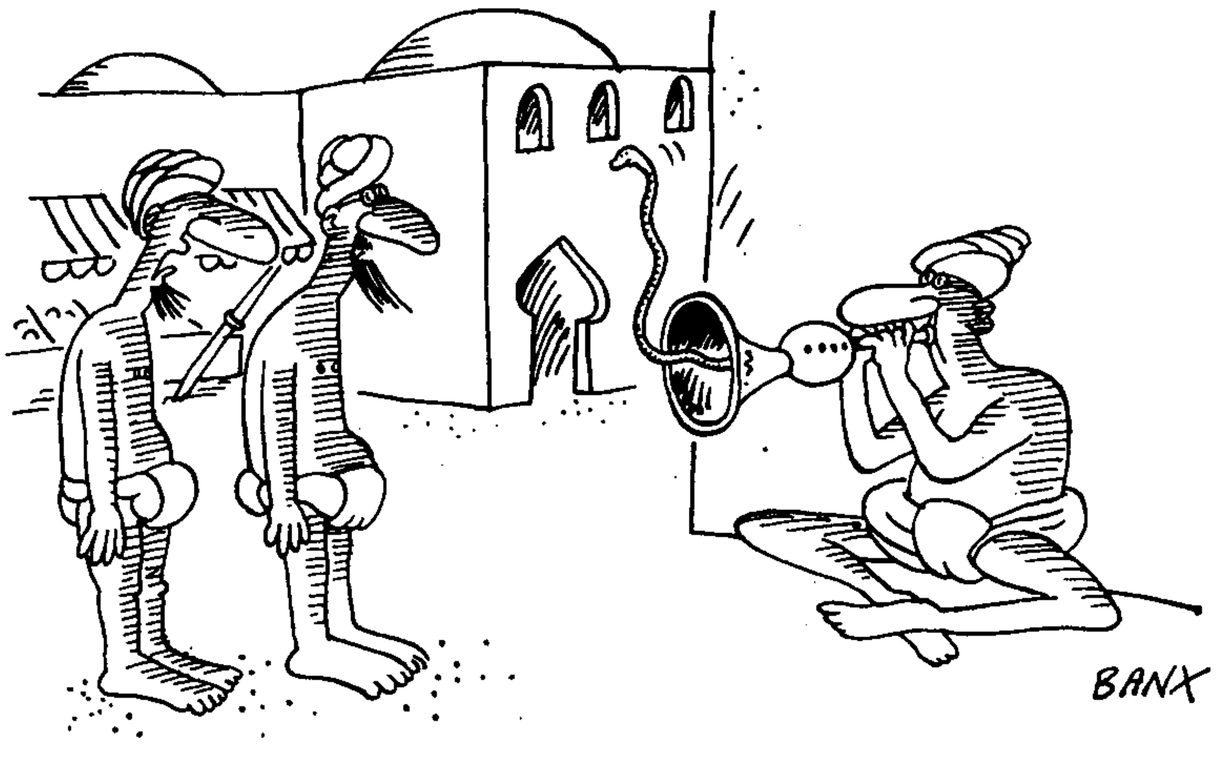


"Clockwise, knucklehead"

"I think you've got him beat"

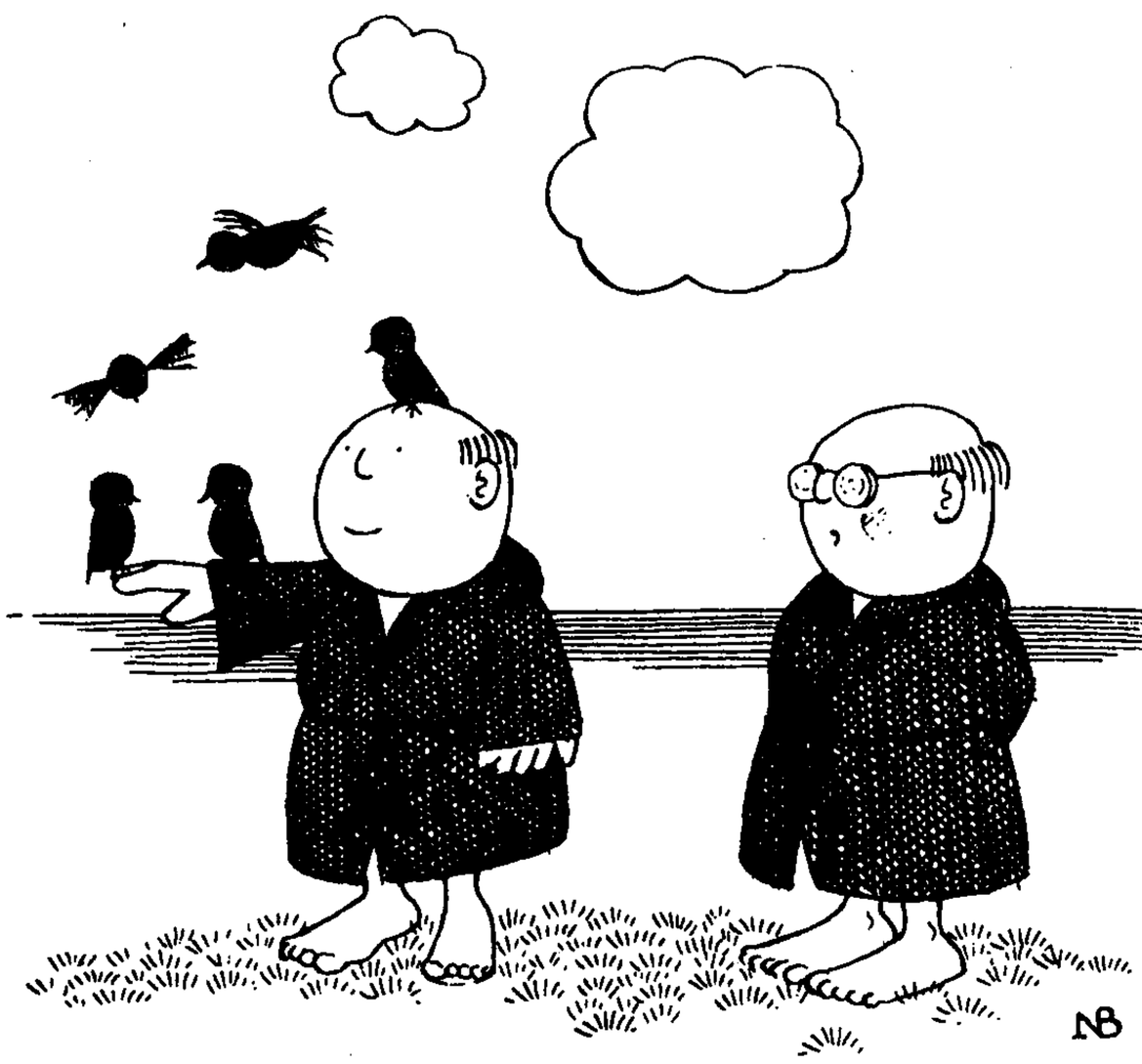




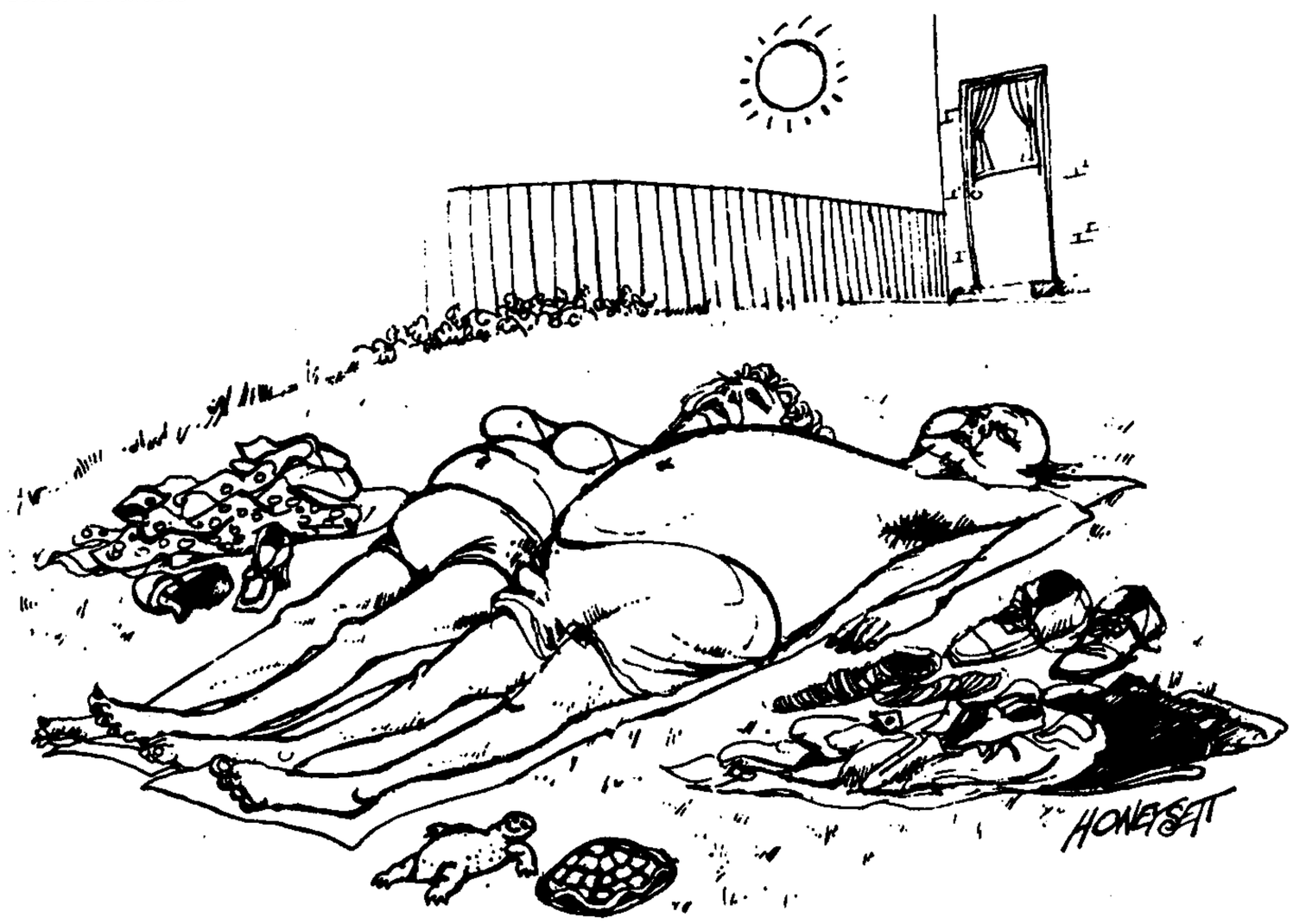


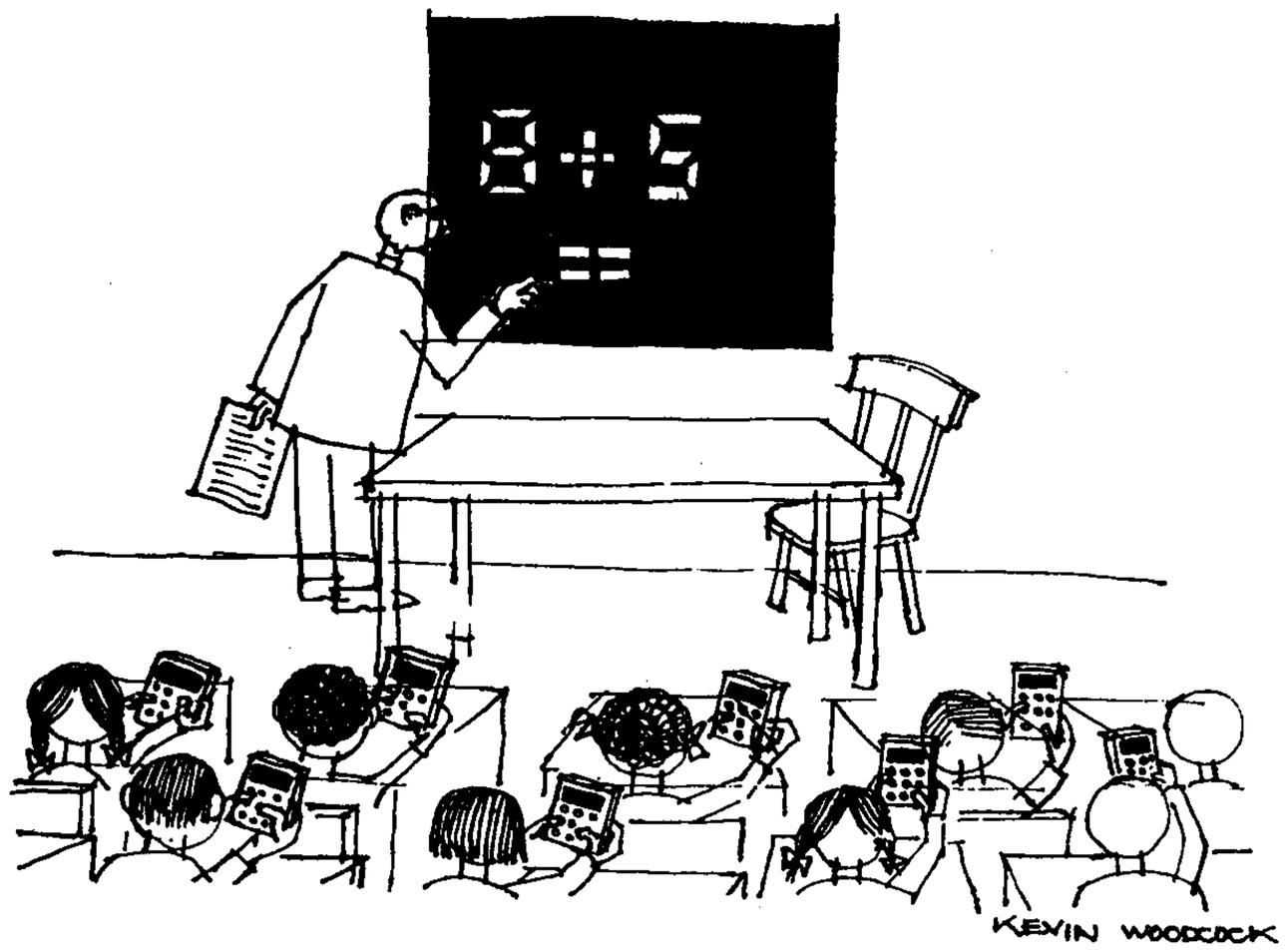
"I still say performing with a tape worm is disgusting"

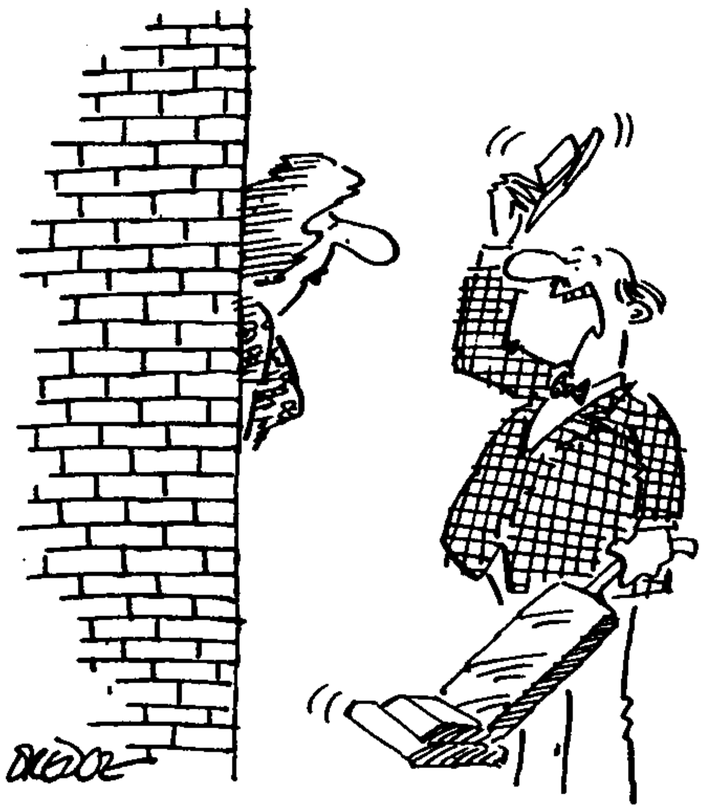
"It's more of a draw for the kids than the old gingerbread house""



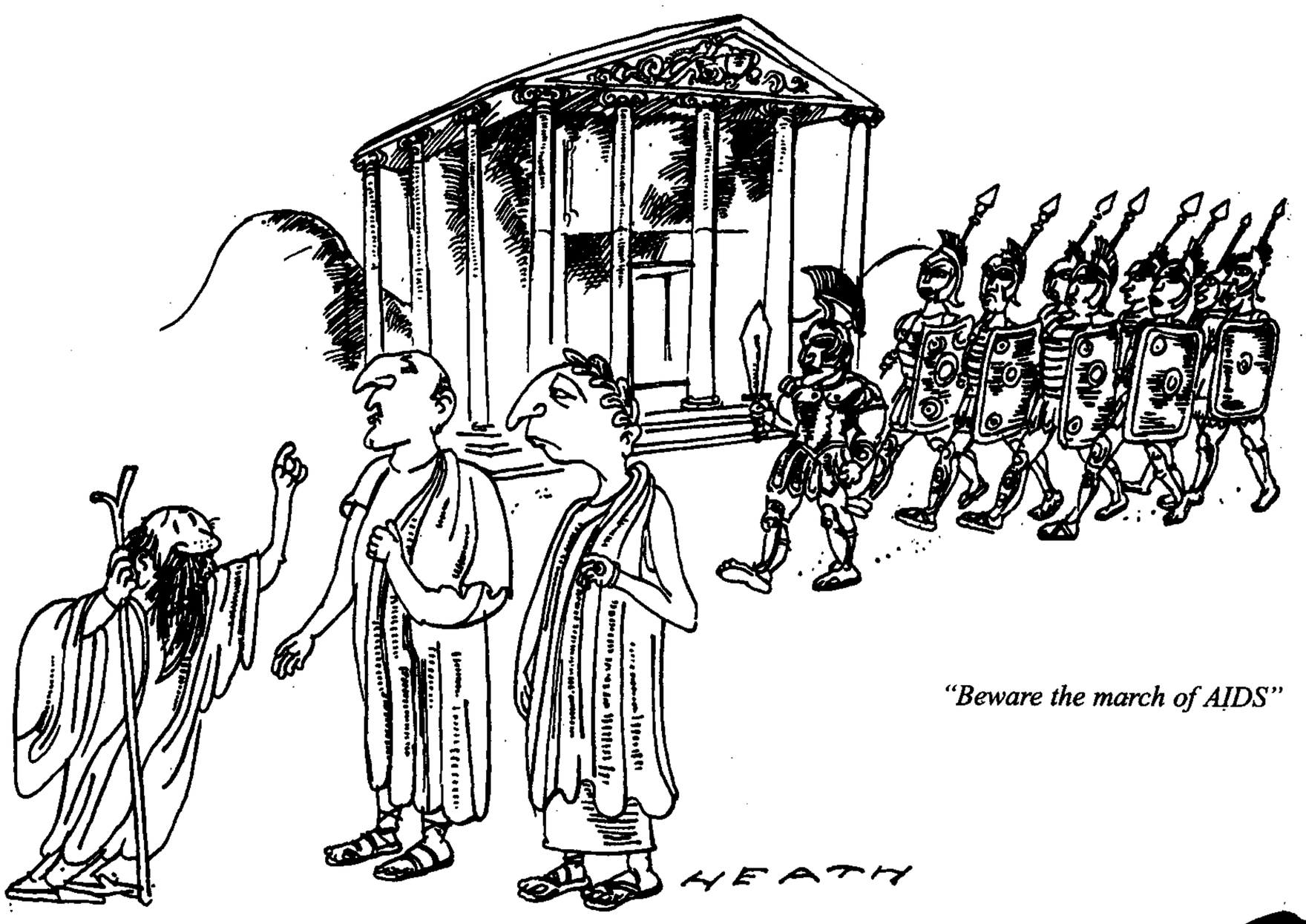
"I wish I could pull the birds like you, Brother Francis"







"Good morning madam – Jehoover's Witness"

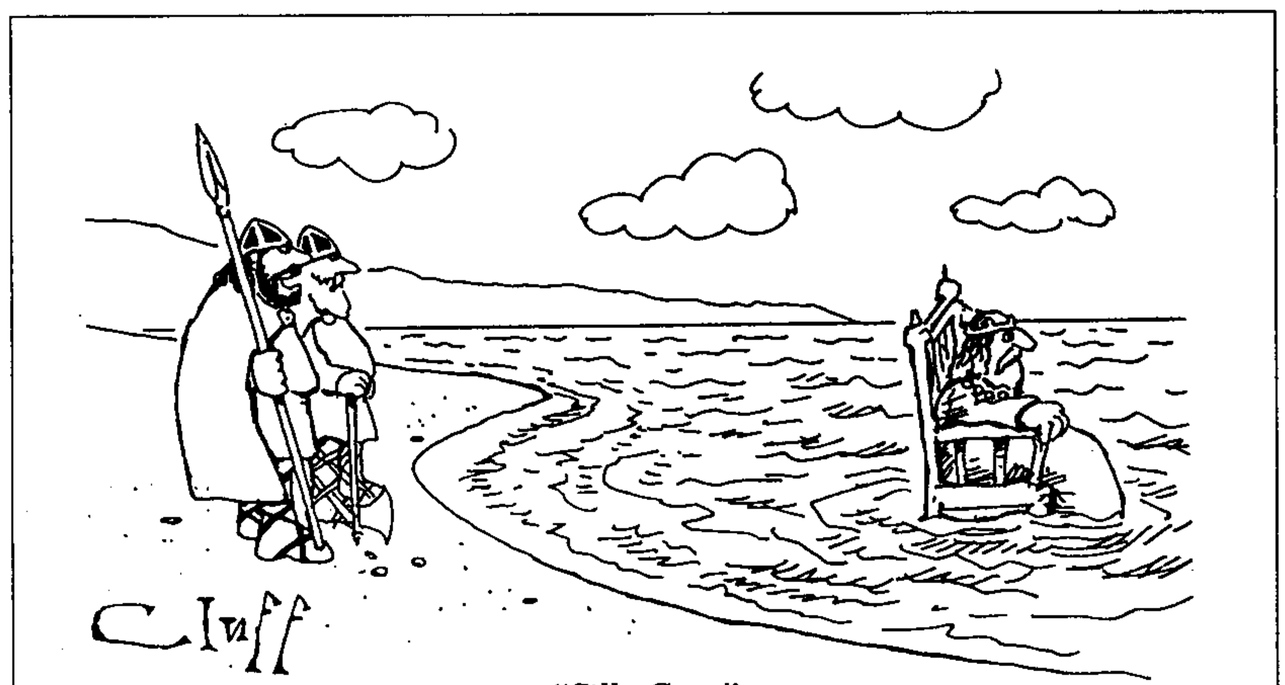


"Beware the march of AIDS"

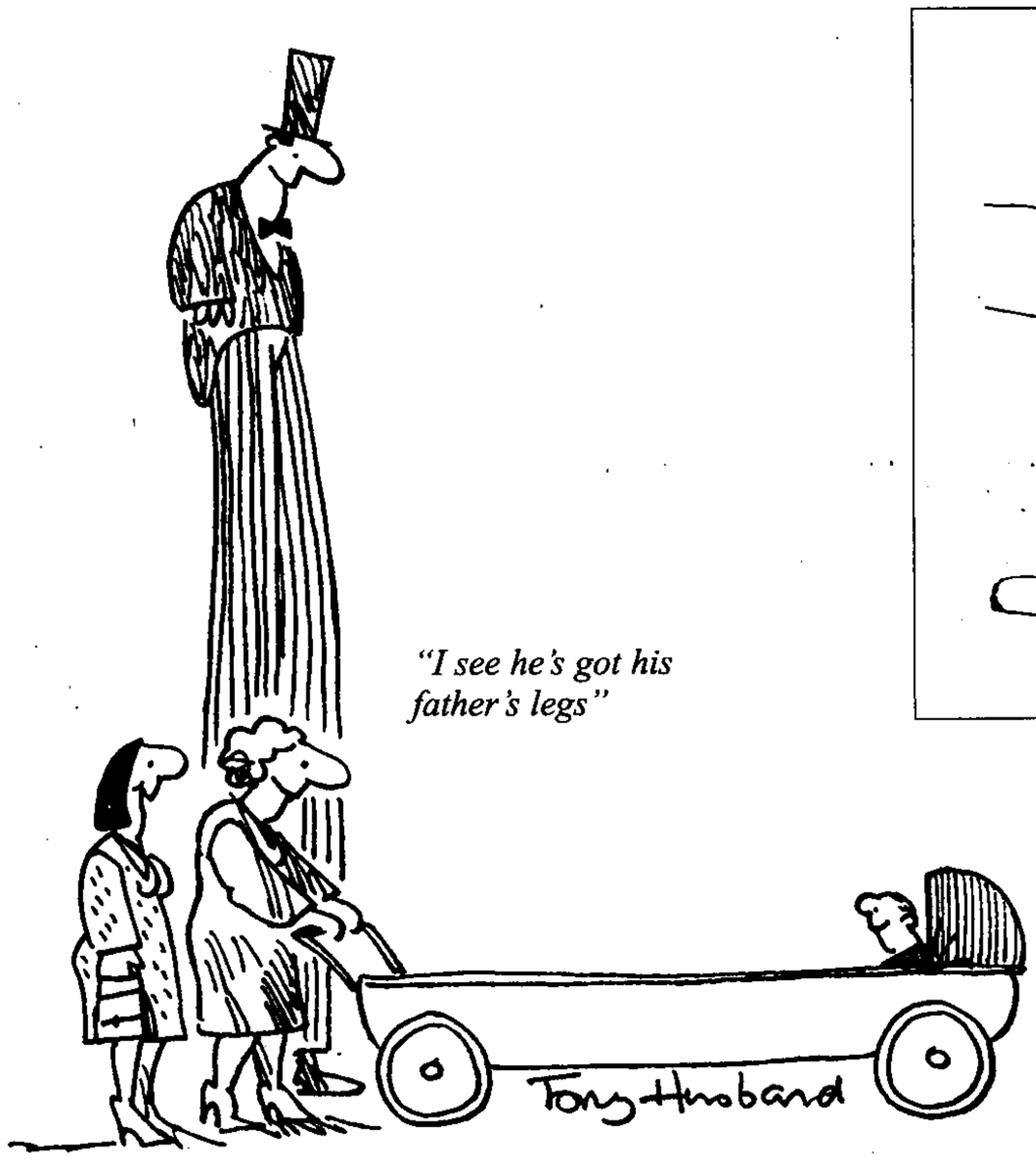
"Would you like a cup of tea before you start the exorcism, Vicar?"

"Oh no! The Cow's burning up on re-entry!"

"My God. It's Hell out there!"



"Silly Cnut"



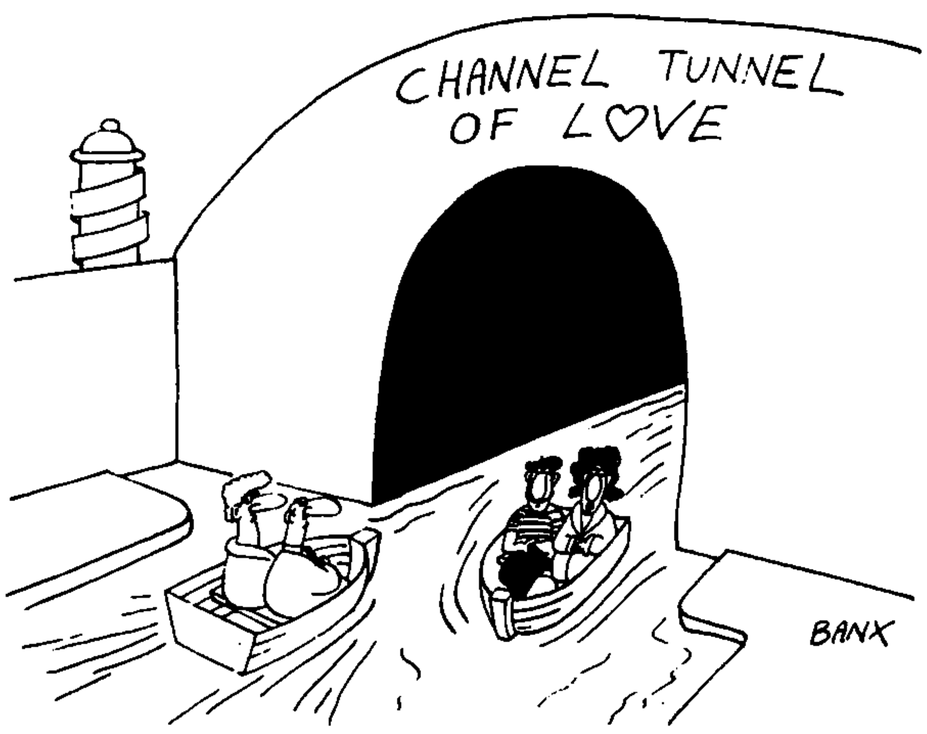
"I see he's got his father's legs"

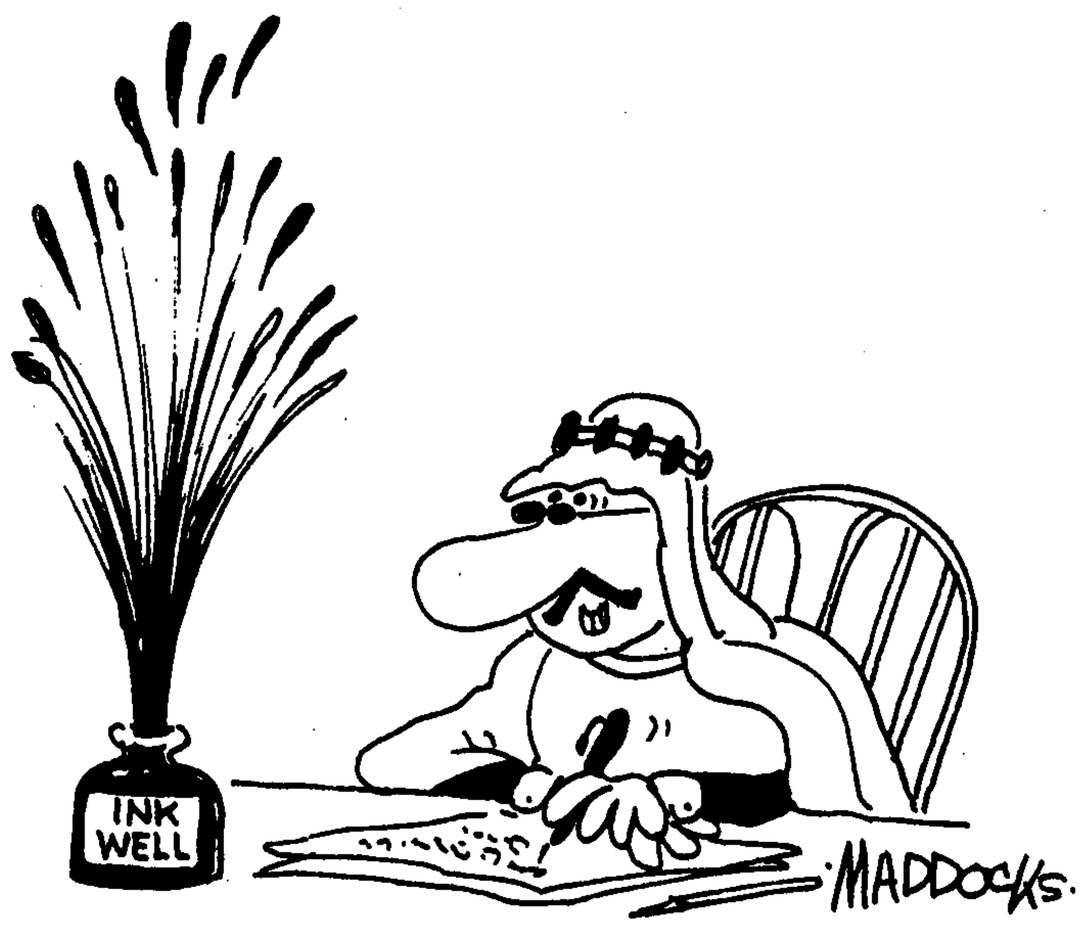
"Why is it you can never find a skinhead when you want one!"

"Maybe when you've finished those you'd like to look at my Torremolinos snaps"

"Bloody luger louts!"

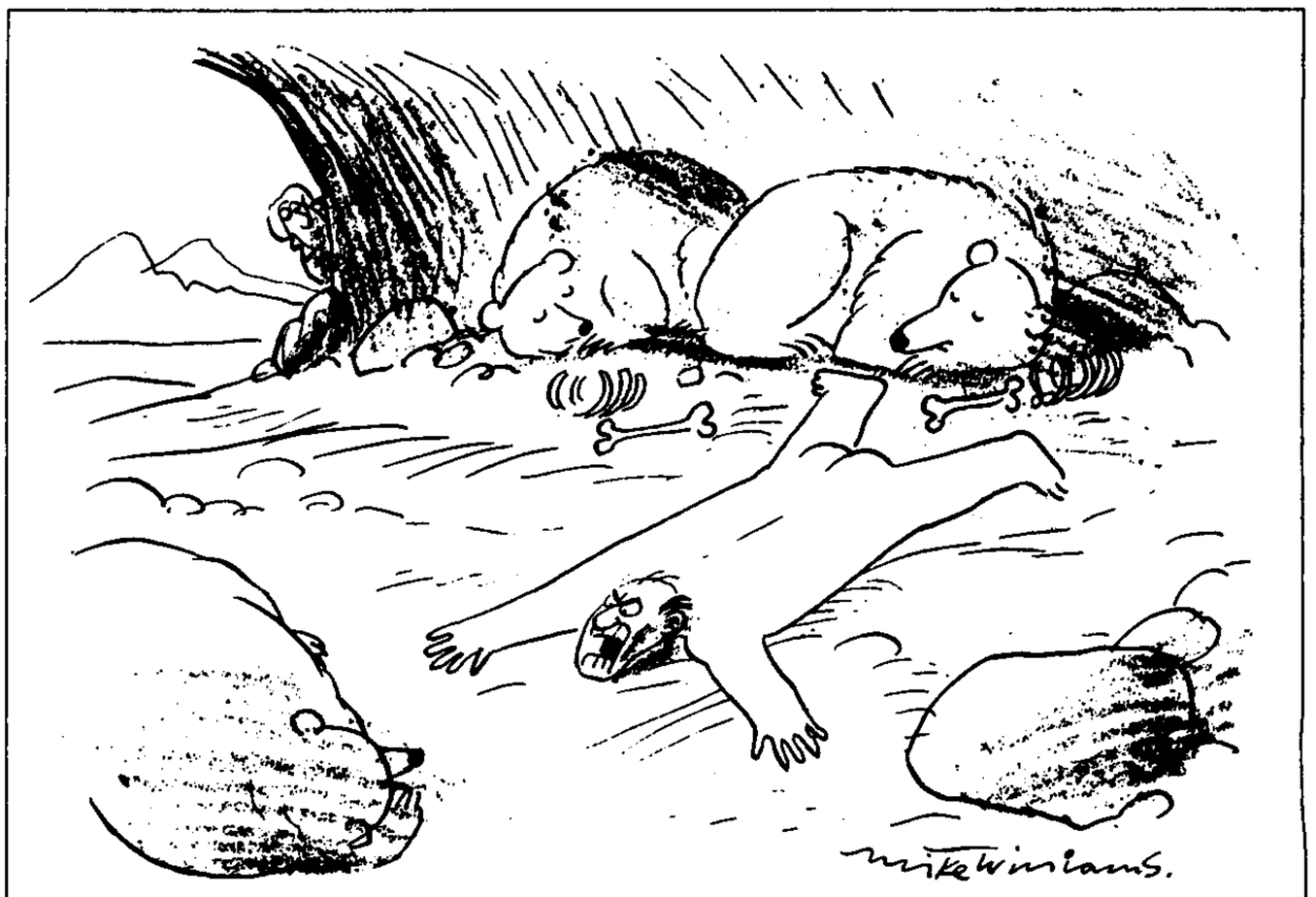
"It's his 'more socialist than thou' attitude I can't stand!"



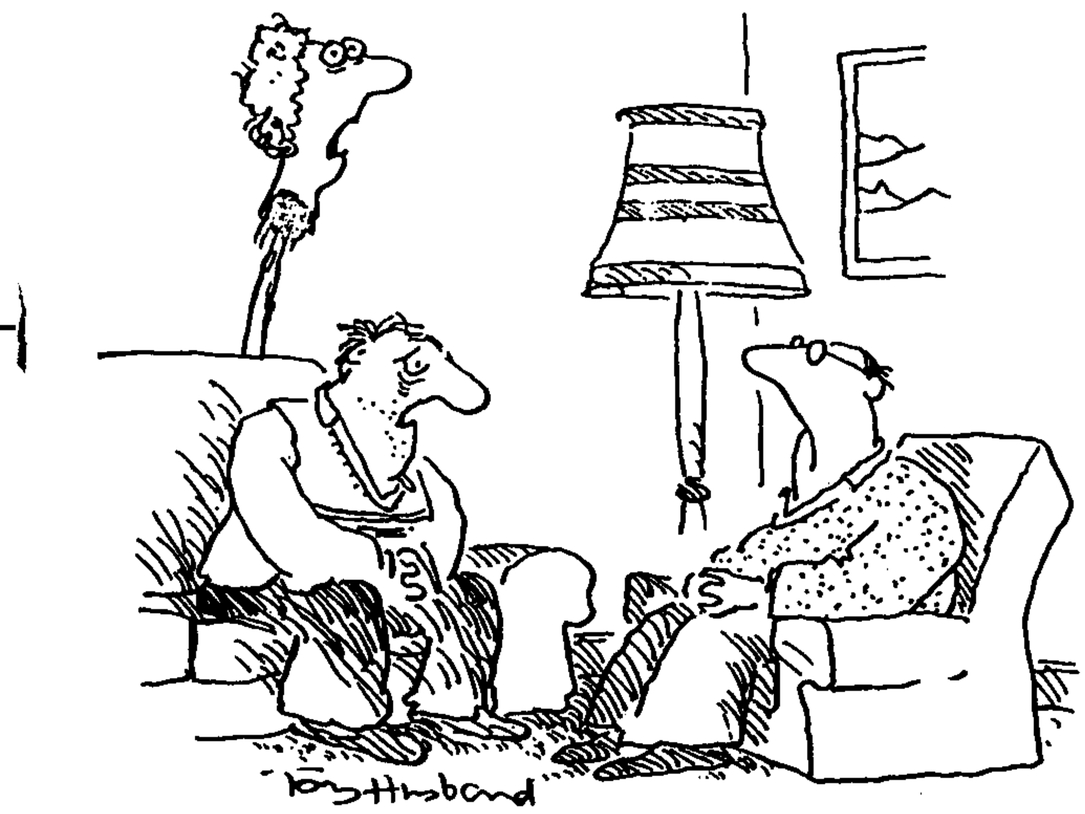


"Waiter – there's four and twenty blackbirds in my pie"

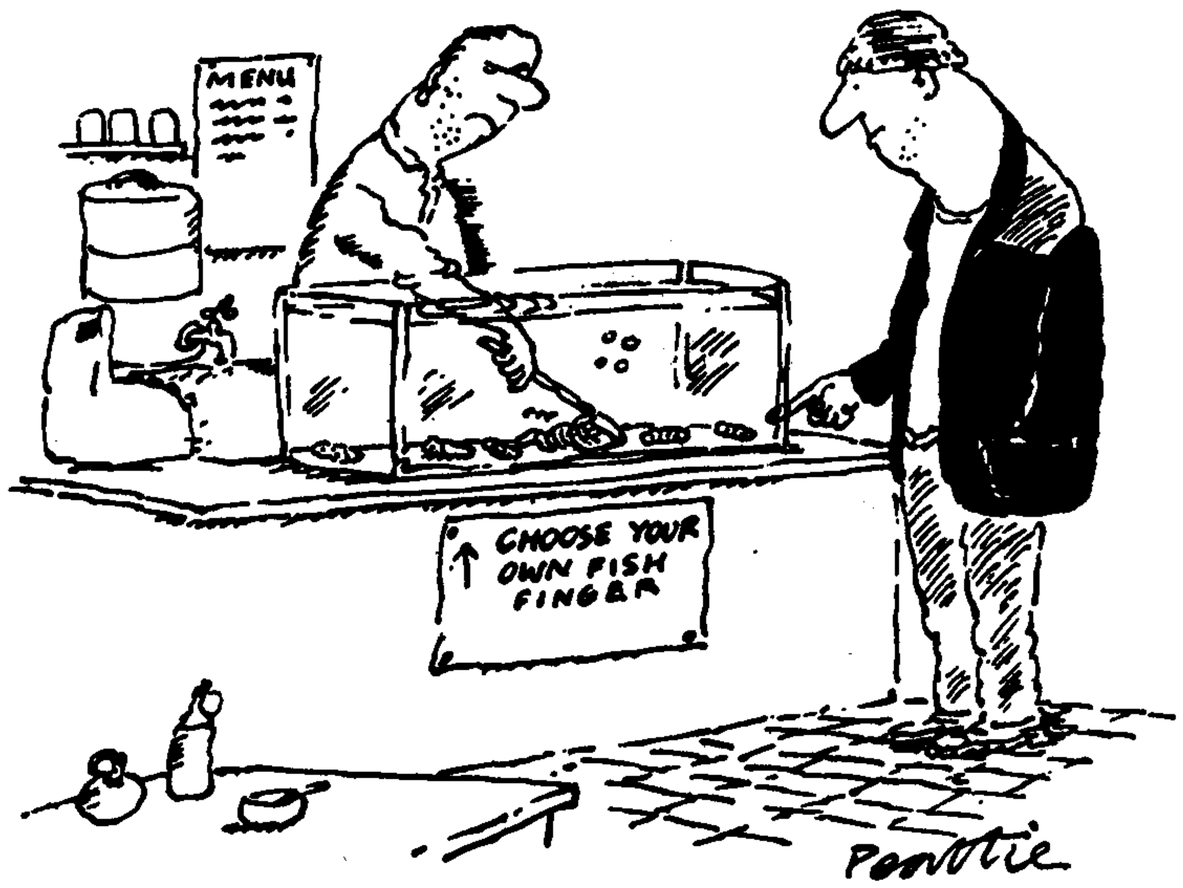
"Not this crap again?"

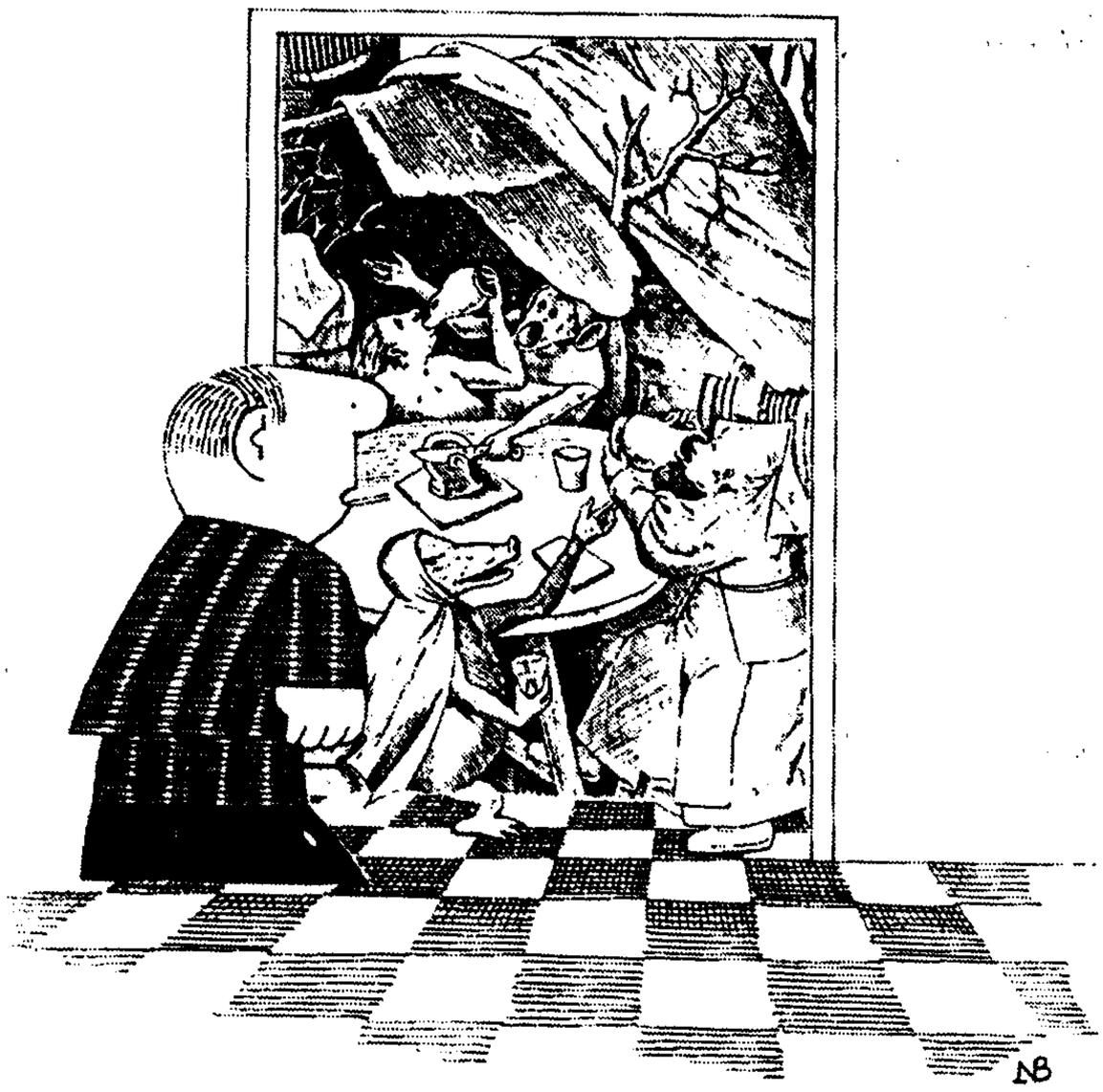


"I'm afraid he's got Odes, Mrs Keats"



"Maggie and I have been going though a bad patch, Ernie"

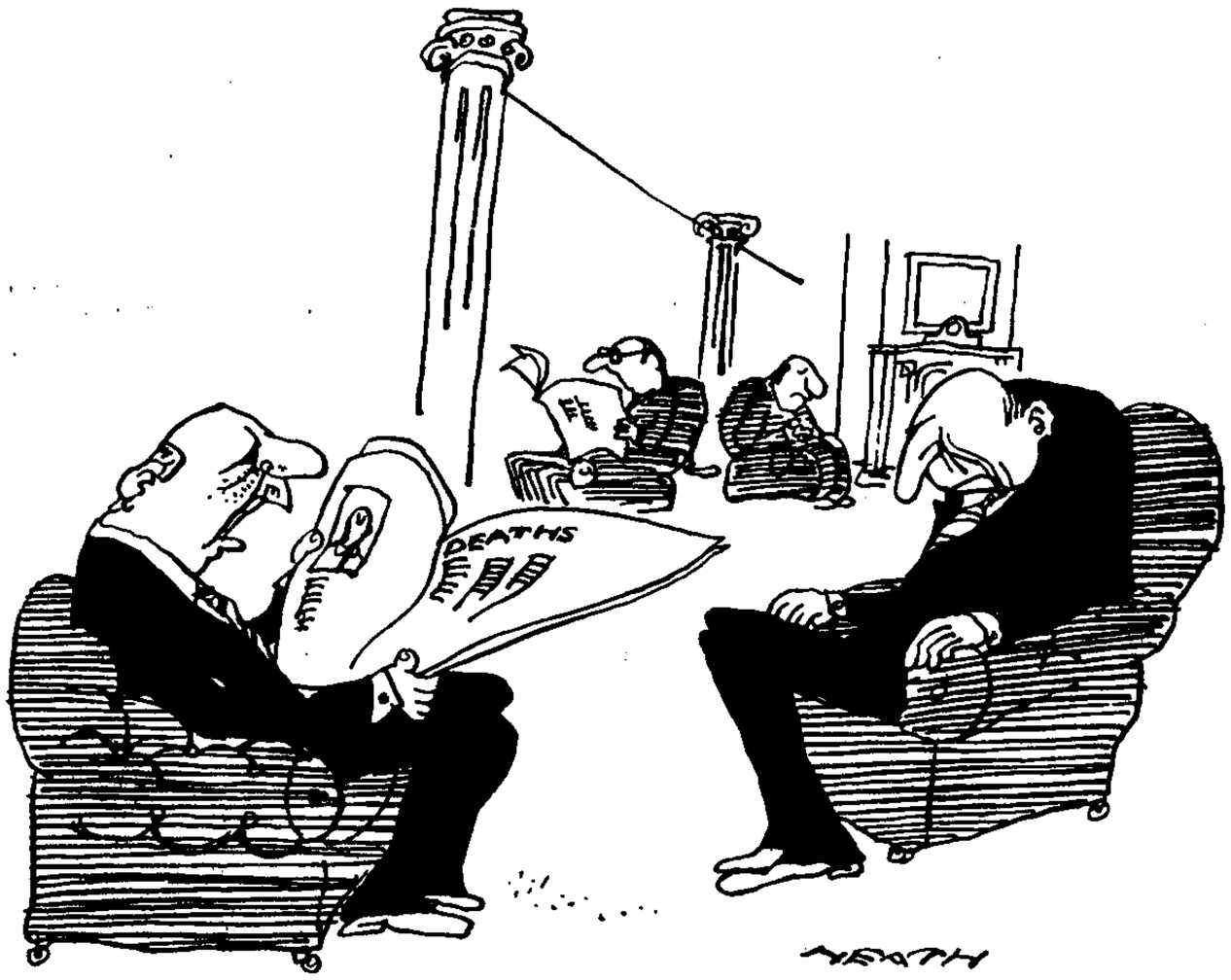




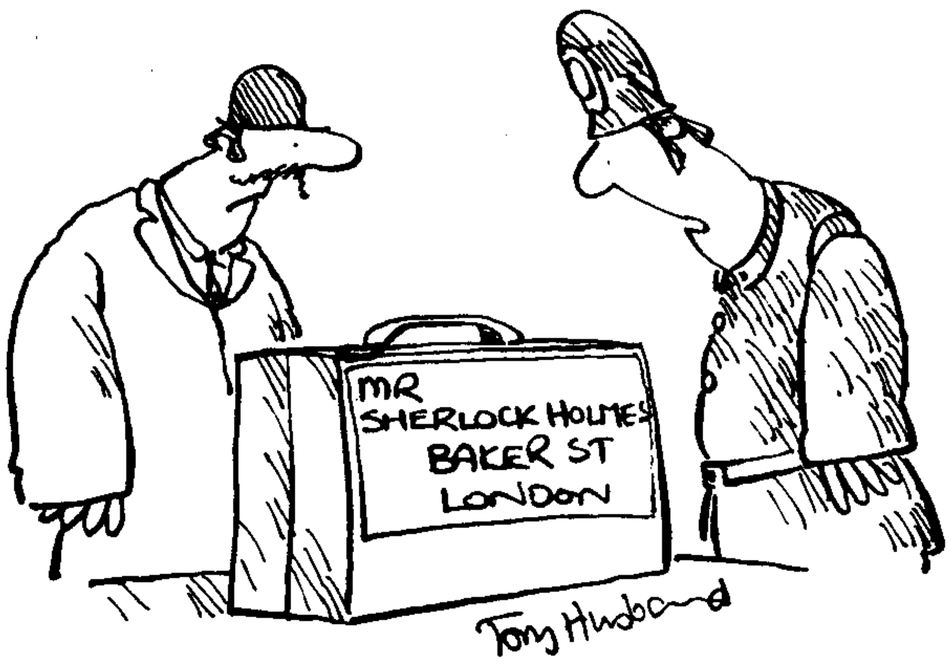
"Excuse me, is this Alcoholics Hieronymous?"

"The corporal here's got this great idea for a sequel!"

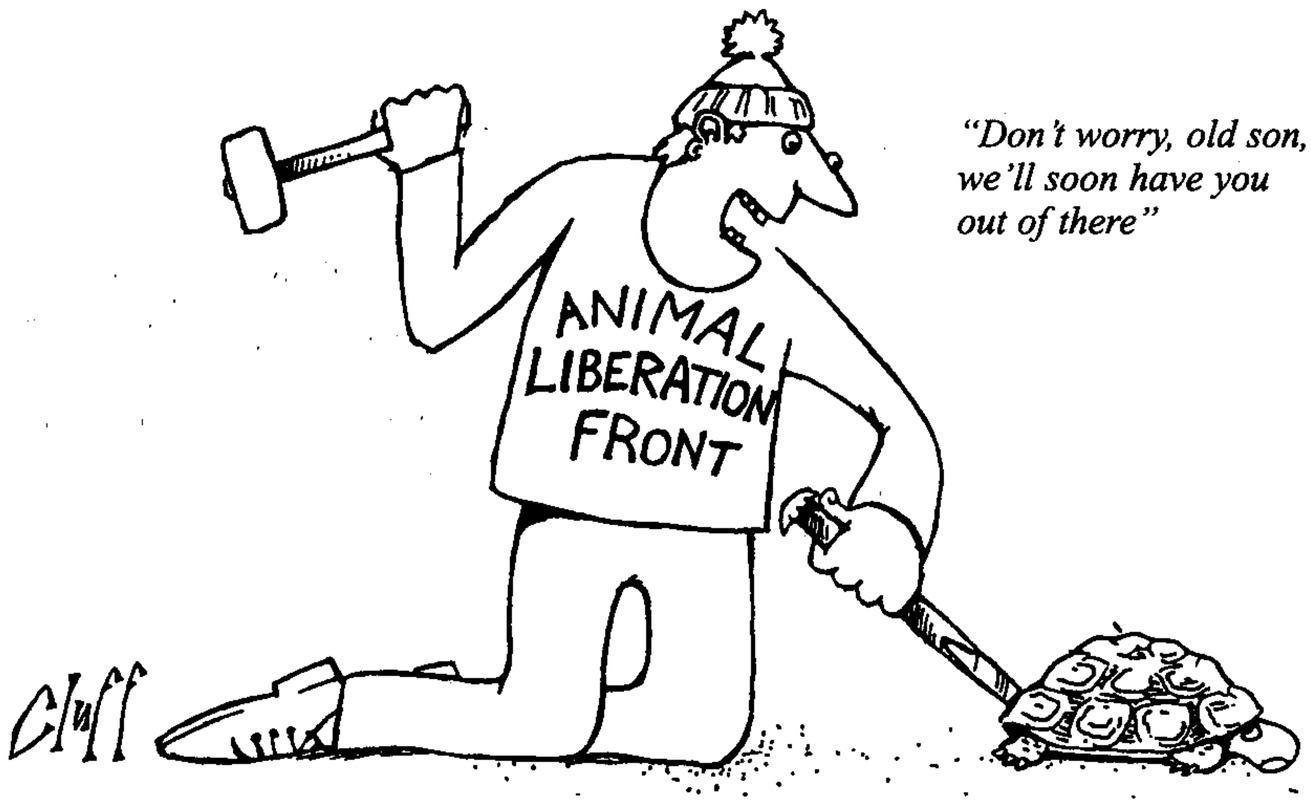
"I can get you onto Page Three of the Bible"



"Good Lord, Fenton, I had no idea you had died!"



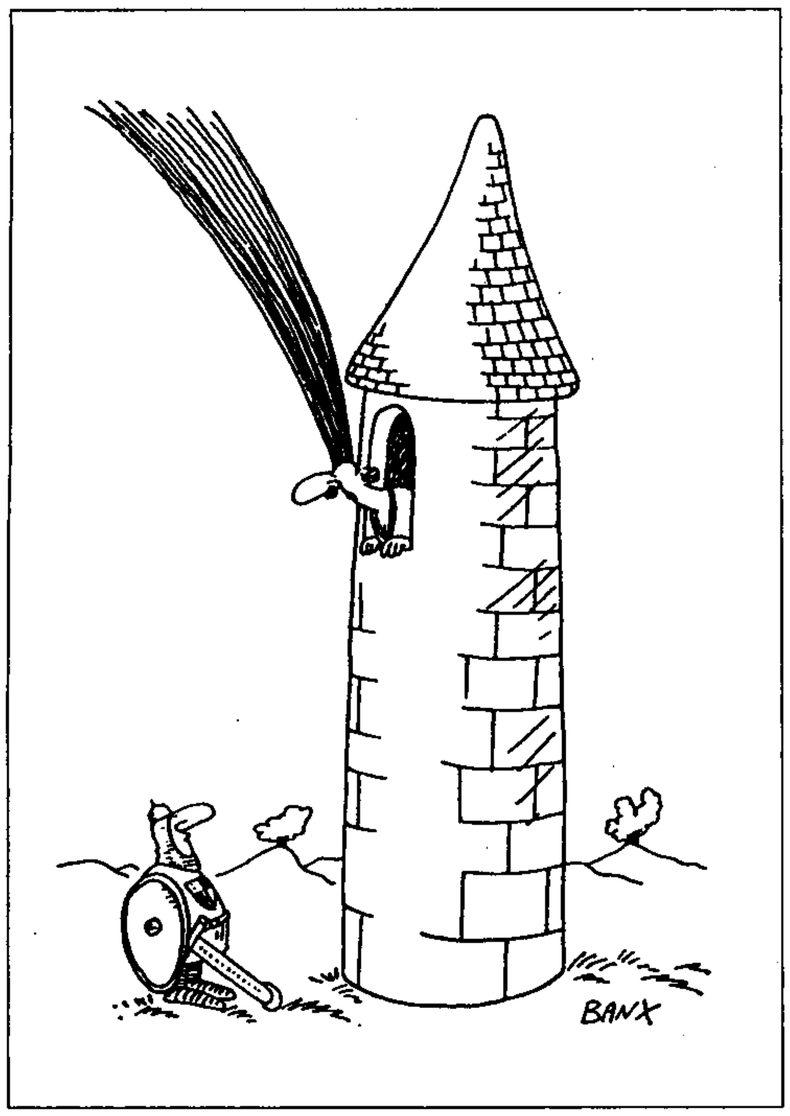
"Looks like a case for Mr Sherlock Holmes, Inspector"



"Don't worry, old son, we'll soon have you out of there"

"I'm afraid you've got footrot"

"What's the matter with you? Haven't you seen a chartered accountant before?"



"It was your chairman's last wish"

"...and this time get it right!"

WAR UPDATE – DAY 94

New Deadly Virus "Already In Circulation"

TO ADD to fears about the release of Anthrax, Ebola and Cholera into the population, a new strain of lethal disease has been discovered called "The Daily Mail".

This acts by spreading fear through human contact with newspapers leading to widespread panic and depression. "It is a dangerous weapon," said a spokesman, "which hugely assists the terrorists in their campaign. It seems as if they have already started using it." *(AP)*

Telegraph And Guardian At War – It's Official

THE DAILY Telegraph and the Guardian are now in a state of "total war", said reporters, with both sides concentrating all their efforts on attacking each other rather than being diverted by events abroad. On the one hand, there is Charles War and his hawk bombers and on the other, the sinister Al-Rubbisha and his shadowy network of suicidal anti-American fanatics. *(Reuters)*

Blair Threatens To Bomb London

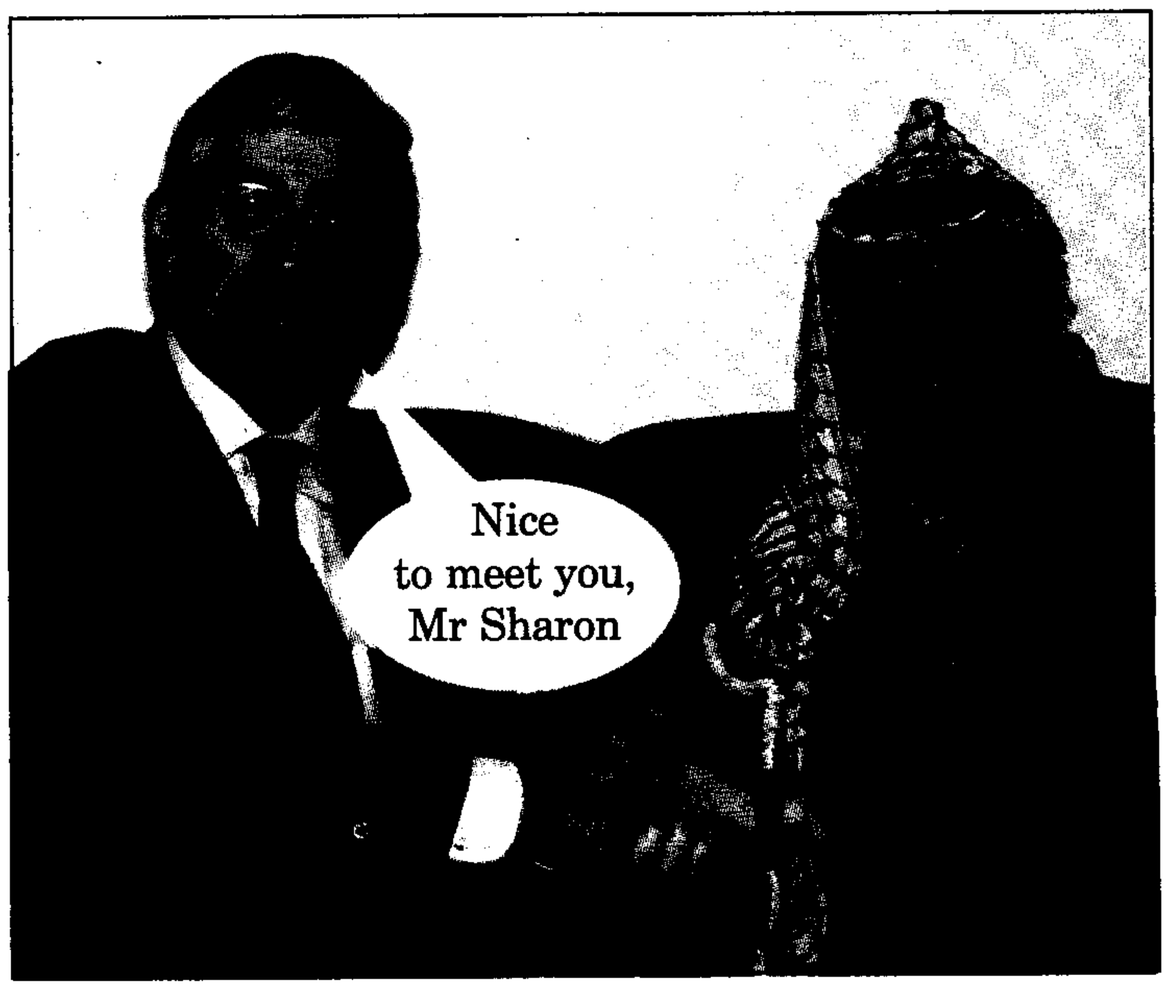
"Any country that has harboured Islamic terrorists is a legitimate target," he said last night, "and we now have proof that the hijackers were operating from London." *(AP)*

Osama bin Laden Applies To Join Coalition Against Terrorism

"If it is broad enough to include Iran, can I join as well?" he asks. *(Reuters)*

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2001

NEW JACK STRAW GAFFE



What He May Look Like Now

THE world's top intelligence experts believe that the world's most wanted terrorist Osama bin Liner will by now have had a complete makeover. He will almost certainly have shaved off his beard, grown his hair long and dyed it blond. The picture shows a CIA computer-generated image of what Bin Liner now looks like.

Letters to the Editor

A ray of hope

SIR – I could not help but be cheered by your report that the game of cricket has recently become a popular pastime in Afghanistan (D. Tel. News 29 Sept.).

Surely no country in which cricket is played, when cries of "owzat" and "good shot, sir," drown out the mournful wails of the muezzins, can be considered wholly beyond salvation?

Perhaps it is not too much to hope that Mr bin Laden himself could be persuaded to "pad up" and to open the batting against a Rest of the World XI?

H. Gussett
"Kandahar", the Hinduja Kush, Dorset

Dave Spartby, Editor of the *New Spartsman* magazine, writes:

I SEE no reason to apologise for my totally reasonable editorial in which I said that the attack on the so-called World Trade Center was a perfectly reasonable response to the sickening terrorism of American capitalism and er that the bond dealers and yuppies who died totally deserved their fate due to their failure to vote for the non-Fascist non-Bush candidate in the so-called US elections and er... the unfortunate fact that the twin towers were actually full of low-paid immigrant insurance clerks in no way invalidates my central theory that er... anyway my views are totally consistent with the New Spartsman magazine which is a totally independent publication owned by the sickening capitalist Geoffrey Robinson and is therefore a legitimate target for a terrorist attack, er...

'SPECULATION' SET TO CONTINUE

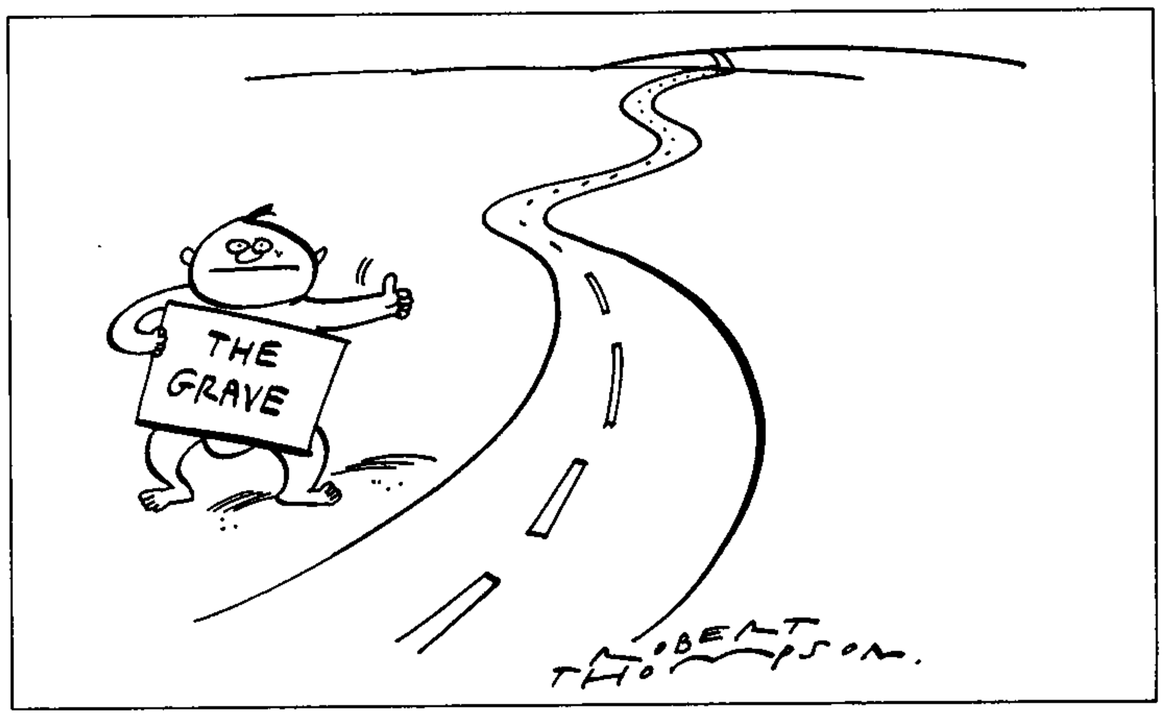
by Our Home Affairs Correspondent **Phil Space**

NEWSPAPER editors have warned readers that they could be living under the shadow of speculation for at least the next ten years.

"We speculate that the speculation about Bin Laden could go on for at least the next ten years," said one retired former military strategist, who added, "Really, though, it's impossible to speculate just how long this outbreak of speculation will last, so obviously I'll be more than happy to do that for you as long as you keep paying me. How much does Michael Rose get, by the way? I'm much better than him."

When pressed on how hard it is to separate speculation from fact, he admitted it was "extremely difficult", but added "then again, that's just speculation".

Editors say speculation early this week that the threat of more speculation had diminished had unfortunately turned out to be nothing more than mere speculation. *(Cont. p .94)*



IDS CARDS TO BE COMPULSORY

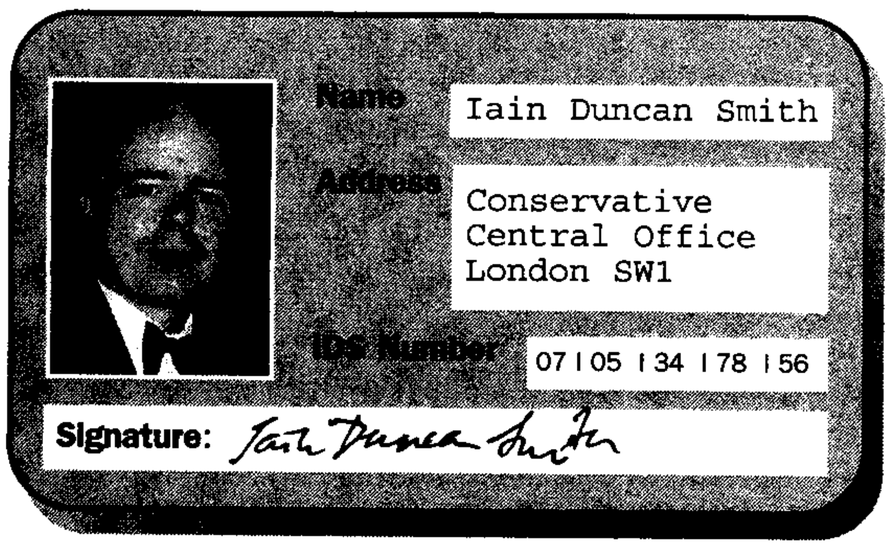
by Our Political Staff **Peter O'Bore**

A SPECIAL IDS card is to be issued to the Leader of the Opposition to assist the public to remember who he is.

The Tory leader will be obliged to produce the IDS card, whenever challenged by a member of the public, with such questions as "Aren't you that new bloke running the Tories who nobody's ever heard of?"

The introduction of the card is designed to end confusion among innocent people who mistake Iain Duncan Smith for his more famous lookalike, Francis Wheen, the celebrated biographer of Karl Marx.

Last night human rights activists angrily condemned the proposed card, saying that it was Mr Duncan Smith's right to remain anonymous.



HOW IT WILL LOOK

Coming Soon In Private Eye

The most important and definitive book ever written by one great statesman about another

THE LIFE OF LORD JENKINS

by Sir Winston Churchill

Chapter One

I FIRST had the privilege of meeting Roy Jenkins (or "Woy" as he preferred to be known) when I was a mere ex-Prime Minister and he was the new young star of the Labour back-benches. Everyone was dazzled by his wit and erudition, and had a story to tell about Woy. My own favourite was the time when he came into the tearoom and ordered "a glass of your best claret, please". "We only do tea," replied the woman behind the counter.

Next week: *The Wilderness Years (1972 – the present day).*

COURT CIRCULAR

ST ANDREWS

Wednesday: His Royal Highness the Prince William will take up residence at the University of St Andrew Neill where he is to read copies of the *Tatler (Shurely 'history of art'? Ed.)*. He will then be stalked by His Royal Highness the Prince Edward and members of the Useless Television Co. to obtain exclusive footage for the purposes of compiling an historic documentary series *From Randy Andy to Wicked Willy*, to be shown in the United States of America. The Prince William will then lodge a complaint with the Broadcasting Standards Commission. Prince Edward will issue an apology before pocketing an enormous cheque.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Thursday: Her Majesty The Queen was presented by His Royal Highness the Prince Andrew with a mobile phone device, manufactured by the House of Orange. Her Majesty then graciously received a call from His Royal Highness the Prince Philip to say that he was on the Royal Train and would not be home for supper due to signalling problems at Slough. Her Majesty then graciously invited Her Majesty the Queen Mother to make the first Royal Call by ringing Messrs William Hill to place a bet of £5 each way on Right Charlie in the 3.45 at Goodwood.

ELTON JOHN – I LIKE PUBLICITY

ELTON JOHN has sensationally revealed that he likes both types of publicity – desperate and shameless.

"I was driving along and I noticed that I've got a new record out, thought 'phwoar!' and that's when I realised it," said the... *(Cont. p. 94)*

STAR NOT ABUSED IN CHILDHOOD

by Our Showbiz Staff **Lunchtime A'buse**

A well-known star yesterday confessed that he had not been subjected to sexual abuse when he was a child.

The celebrity made this revelation in an interview with a Sunday newspaper, in which he said, "For years I have lived with this shameful secret. Every other star I know has gone public to admit they were serially abused in childhood, and I always felt embarrassed that it never happened to me."

Full story: pages 24-36

ROY of the ROVERPAIDS

DIARY

GORE VIDAL

Well how about that, I thought as I flicked on the television in order to observe the aeroplanes making their way with such unAmerican precision into the World Trade Center. Or, as my grandmother in Oklahoma might have said, "Jist watch dat cookie crumble."

How about that, indeed. Needless to say, the world's Media in what we are still pleased to describe, in our sweetly innocent way, as the Land of the Free, were anxious for my thoughts on the matter. So for the rest of that nondescript mid-September day I sat in a geranium-filled garden en Italie, the blustery breeze playing havoc with my hair, attempting to explain by satellite the true meaning of what had just occurred to an American population now largely subliterate.

Am I going too fast for you? I have long worn the mantle of Unofficial Historian to the United States of Amnesia (sic!) and I regard it as an essential part of my position to explain the inner-workings of that ungainly continent to its sluggish and frequently slack-buttocked but not entirely unreceptive peoples. Of course, there is a danger that by listening they might actually learn something, and thus present a grave danger to a government which, with its allies in the Tobacco industry, asks nothing of it noble citizens other than to, in the resonant words of that ill-shaven archbore Richard Milhous Nixon, "put up and shut up". But that particular peril is one they must learn, as F. Delano Roosevelt, once said, to live with.

In the past six months alone, I have devoted many precious screen-minutes (costing me a small fortune in the appropriate cosmetics, bills never wholly repaid by the Great Broadcasting Institutions of Our Sacred Land) to passing on to my fellow Americans the information that their sacred President Jack Kennedy met his untimely demise not from a lone gunman but at the hands of his wife Jackie, of blessed memory, who had, of course, been armed and trained by a consortium jointly headed by Mr Aristotle Onassis and Mr Fidel Castro, under the day-to-day direction of the American Tobacco Lobby, headed by your very own Duke Philip of Edinburgh, whose connections with J. Edgar Hoover and his ivory-tinkling sidekick Noel Coward are already well-established.

"It should ne'er be forgotten," I informed the ostentatiously feminine Diane Sawyer when I appeared on the top-rated 60 Minutes, "that the whiskery Mr Osama bin Laden is, of course, a senior backstage figure in the Disney Corporation."

This, it seemed, was news to the white-toothed Miss Sawyer, who, was also, it emerged, blissfully unaware that the far-from-dead Elvis Aaron Presley, has now donned a beard and head-dress and is living in a luxury cave somewhere near Kabul under the direct command of the Taliban and their flat-footed apparatchiks in the CIA.

A brief lesson in history, if I may be so bold. The so-called Twin Towers was, of course, in fact the Triple Towers, the existence of the third tower being kept from the Great American Public by their government for what are euphemistically known in those high-falutin' circles as "security reasons".

It was the virtually unknown Third Tower – where, back in 1966, the infamous Moon Landings had been secretly staged and filmed under the direction of our old friend Mr Walt Disney – that was, of course, the true target of the "terrorist" assault, for here it was that your own Prince Edward, fifth son of Queen Elizabeth II and a full colonel in the SAS, was training the heavily-disguised Yeti, who had entered America under a false name, clean shaven and wearing a Fedora, to mount an all-out attack on the city of Beirut.

Doggedly, and with the natural good manners of my Texan forebears, I attempted to talk Ms Sawyer and her eager if saddeningly odoriferous viewers step-by-step through their own history, a lesson my poor, dear second-cousin George W. Bush has been only too keen to avoid.

Most of my horny-handed fellow-citizens – the majority happy to believe in the somewhat spartan, indeed positively cocktail-free paradise offered by a nondescript beard-and-sandals Jewish woodworker – remain unaware that the United States of America was formed in Ancient Egypt, under the aegis of the Ford Corporation, who had recently completed the construction of their fifth pyramid, in which they were to instal a series of listening devices. Kidnapped, as predicted by Nostradamus, by a series of unidentified flying objects, after a brief sojourn in the Bermuda Triangle, our ancestors were to settle in America under the beady, lightly mascara-ed eyes of the gaunt prig Abraham Lincoln, operating under direct orders from King George III.

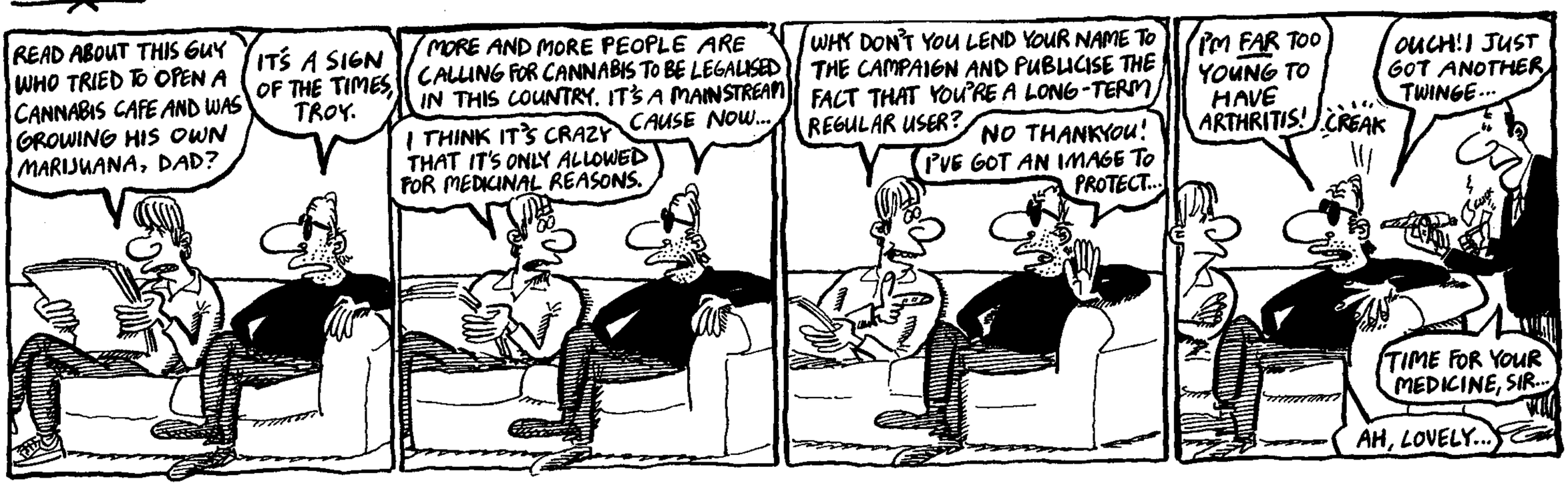
And so to me. History now leaps ahead a century or twain, until we arrive, with the keenest anticipation, at my own birth, most elegantly executed by all accounts. A meticulous dresser, I immediately eschewed the nappy proffered by my nursemaid, holding out for a miniature handmade suit from Brookes Brothers (then, of course, a leading front for the CIA under our old friend Randolph Hearst).

Are you still with me, or am I too knowledgeable for you? To resume: I am not now in daily contact with the much-maligned Osama bin Laden, though I have, in the past, found him an amusing, if restless and somewhat picky, dining companion. Having examined all the evidence, I find that he currently shares his cave with our old friend Miss Monica Lewinsky, who, of course, once placed dear old Ronnie Reagan in such a sticky position. Between the two of them they are apparently planning to sell arms to the Loch Ness Monster, which is now in residence in Cuba. But that, as my great aunt Wallis Simpson would say, is another story....

As told to
CRAIG BROWN

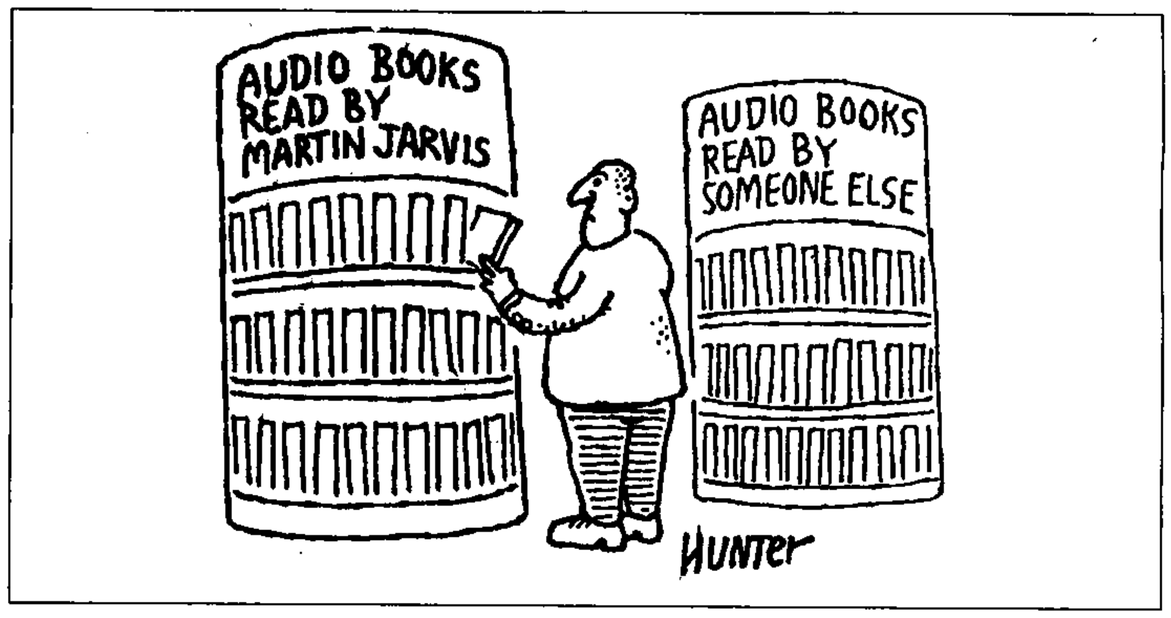
Celeb

LIGGER


READ ABOUT THIS GUY WHO TRIED TO OPEN A CANNABIS CAFE AND WAS GROWING HIS OWN MARIJUANA, DAD?
IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES, TROY.
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE CALLING FOR CANNABIS TO BE LEGALISED IN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S A MAINSTREAM CAUSE NOW...
I THINK IT'S CRAZY THAT IT'S ONLY ALLOWED FOR MEDICINAL REASONS.
WHY DON'T YOU LEND YOUR NAME TO THE CAMPAIGN AND PUBLICISE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A LONG-TERM REGULAR USER?
NO THANKYOU! I'VE GOT AN IMAGE TO PROTECT...
I'M FAR TOO YOUNG TO HAVE ARTHRITIS!
CREAK
OUCH! I JUST GOT ANOTHER TWINGE...
TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE, SIR...
AH, LOVELY...

Literary Review

New York – A Novel Approach?



AT LEAST one good thing has emerged from the smoke and rubble. "People sometimes dismiss fiction as mere entertainment, but at times like this there's no question that novelists at their best have a privileged access to truths about the human condition denied to others," Robert McCrum wrote in the *Observer* on 23 September.

"Partly, this is because they have a detachment that reporters, caught up in the maelstrom of events, cannot equal. Journalism is history's first draft, and the journalism of novelists, while not always to everyone's taste, can supply the insights that people need at a time like this... It's the imaginative writers who have provided the most trustworthy response to the dreadful irruption of horrifying reality."

To prove the point, a page of that day's *Observer* was filled with a "letter" sent to McCrum by his novelist chum Peter Carey. "Dear Robert," he began. "The last week is a great blur with no divisions between night and day. Time is broken. The events of the first day bleed into the next and all the powerful emotions and disturbing sights are now so hard to put in proper sequence." All very trustworthy, no doubt, but where are those truths about the human condition we were promised? Here they come: "I am moved. We are all moved." *Thanks, Pete.*

Another Booker-winner, Ian McEwan, was the first novelist to get his draft of history into print. On the morning after the attack on the World Trade Center he had 1,000 words in the *Guardian*, sharing those insights which only an imaginative writer can offer. "American reality always outstrips the imagination," he disclosed. "We entered a dream-like state... Nothing could have prepared us... Like millions, perhaps billions around the world, we knew we were living through a time that we would never be able to forget. We also knew, though it was too soon to wonder how or why, that the world would never be the same." Millions of minds with but a single thought, eh? So much for the novelist's "privileged access".

A few days later McEwan came up with a second draft. "Most of us have had no active role to play in these terrible events," he wrote. "We simply watch the television, read the papers, turn on the radio again... And the derided profession of journalism can rise quite nobly, and with immense resource, to public tragedy." Before talking himself out of a job, however, McEwan ventured a few observations that had eluded mere hacks. "We remember what we have seen, and we daydream helplessly... What if it was me?"

At least McEwan was trying to react as an ordinary person might. Most of the novelists who wrote pieces on "How It Felt For Me" and "Why the World Will Never be the Same Again" seemed determined to emphasise their difference and indeed superiority. "Look at me!" their prose shrieked. "I'm an artist! We aesthetes are so *sensible*, in the French sense of the word. When something like this happens, it affects us much more deeply and painfully than ordinary sods like you could ever imagine."

In Jay McInerney's lengthy feature for the *Grauniad* there were two sensibilities for the price of one. "We managed to get our friend Bret [Easton] Ellis on the phone," he reported. "At Bret's apartment we watched CNN for half an hour. We kept telling each other we couldn't believe this. I noticed an invitation to a book party on Bret's kitchen counter. 'I'm glad I don't have a book coming out this month,' I said — a selfish and trivial response to the disaster, but one I thought he would understand. Nobody was going to be talking about fiction this week. 'I was just thinking that same thing,' he said, with obvious relief. 'I don't know how I'm going to be able to go back to this novel I'm writing,' I said. The novel is set in New York, of course. The very New York which has just been altered for ever. 'I know exactly what you mean,' he said." Later, McInerney dined on roast lamb and "a bottle of 85 Lynch Bages, the first of several bottles".

This, no doubt, is what Robert McCrum meant when he claimed that novelists have more "detachment" than hacks. Or, as the American author Richard Ford wrote on 23 September: "It is an axiom of the novelist's grasp on reality that a death's importance is measured by the significance of the life that has ended. Thus to die, as so many did on 11 Sept — their singular existences briefly obscured — may seem to cloud and invalidate life entirely... Life is made to seem unreverberant to those of us who remain here, those in whom life must reverberate, must signify, or all is lost."

Fear not: as long as Martin Amis is alive there will always be reverberants and signifiers galore. Writing in the *Grauniad* a week after the event, Mart replayed the scene thus: "That second plane looked eagerly alive, and galvanised with malice, and wholly alien. For those thousands in the south tower, the second plane meant the end of everything. For us, its glint was the worldflash of a coming future... This moment was the apotheosis of the postmodern era." *Worldflash?* Or just flashy words?

Not to be outdone, the *Daily Mirror* unleashed its resident novelist Tony Parsons. "Death came out of a clear, blue sky," he typed. "That is where the story begins — the only story we can tell, the only story we want to hear — with the kind of clear, blue sky that you only get in autumn in New York City. The day was crisp and cloudless and made you feel glad to be alive. A day when anything seemed possible. Then death came out of that clear, blue sky, changing everything..."

And so on, for another *six thousand words* – though some of them may have seemed slightly familiar to anyone who had read Martin Amis two days earlier. Here's Amis on the moment the second plane struck: "Until then, America thought she was witnessing nothing more serious than the worst aviation disaster in history; now she had a sense of the fantastic vehemence ranged against her." And Parsons: "At first it seemed as though this was the worst disaster in the history of American aviation. Then... we learned that it was infinitely worse than that."

All this violence seems to have awakened the macho instincts of many male novelists. Jay McInerney: "I am angry. I'm depressed. I'm weepy. I can't control my emotions at all. I want to hug strangers. I want to hurt other strangers, anyone who had anything to do with this." Peter Carey: "We touch, embrace, cry, are half wild with anger. Emotions are close to the surface... I want to strike back, pulverise, kill, obliterate anyone who has caused this harm to my city."

Who better to calm their raging passions than Jeanette Winterson? "All the stories ever written," she informed *Guardian* readers, "tell us that there are only three possible endings. Revenge. Tragedy. Forgiveness." Shome mishtake, shurely? Has she never read the timeless tales of Budgie the Helicopter? But there was no stopping Winterson by now. "We are all human," she revealed. "We are all nothing and everything."

Shock, horror! Hold the front page!

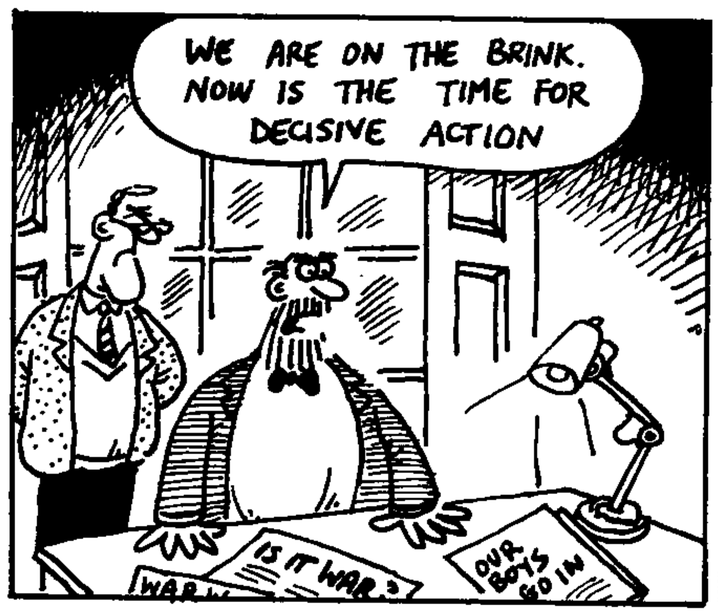
Books & Bookmen

■ THE most generous and thoughtful contribution to relief efforts in New York came, inevitably, from the Dirty Digger.

Jane Friedman, HarperCollins's President and CEO in New York, sent a memo to all staff with the glad tidings that "HarperCollins has donated 3,000 copies of Harold S. Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* to the American Red Cross... to help people cope with personal pain". Oh, and the company was publishing "a special trade format edition of Philip Yancey's *Where is God When it Hurts?*, a wonderful book that can serve as a source of encouragement and comfort to those who are looking for answers in the aftermath of this calamity".

■ ALARM bells rang at Orion House last week when the publisher's star "shopping, fucking and having it all" novelist Louise Bagshawe told the freebie newspaper *Metro* she would not be writing any more sex scenes in her novels as they conflict with her strong Catholicism.

Why her religious commitment hasn't held her back in the past wasn't explained; and the problem remains that without the sex there isn't much to Bagshawe's oeuvre. With no breathless description of



rumpy-pumpy, will her books – with such titles such as *Venus Envy* – sell quite so well?

With Anthony "Fatty" Cheetham desperate enough to consider rushing out a coffee-table book on the World Trade Center while the bodies are still warm (he now denies it was considered seriously and claims it was merely a proposal, but those who were at the infamous meeting know better), it is clear the company needs all the cash cows it can get.

■ MARTIN McGuinness is becoming increasingly nervous about a forthcoming unauthorised biography written by *Sunday Times* hack Liam Clarke and his wife, Kathryn Johnston.

So much so that he recently issued a press release via Sinn Fein's press office, urging republicans to "withhold cooperation with these opportunistic journalists". He added that "those purporting to be writing autobiographical accounts of my life are doing so without my cooperation or approval".

It is a sad reflection on modern standards of literacy that even Northern Ireland's minister of education is unaware of the difference between a biography and an autobiography. His statement provoked a spirited letter to the *Irish Press* from a Dublin reader pointing out that republicans had spent years struggling against censorship.

"Someone should point out the concept of biographical writing to Minister McGuinness, and highlight the list of biographies currently on education syllabuses. Does he suggest that we remove and burn all biographical books that were written without the cooperation of their subjects?"

Clarke and Johnston delivered the final typescript of their book on the very day the minister issued his minatory press release. It will be published in November – just before McGuinness is expected to give evidence to the Bloody Sunday inquiry.

'Bookworm'

Pop culture vultures

Heavier than Heaven: The biography of Kurt Cobain
Charles R. Cross
(Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99)

Learning to Fly: The autobiography
Victoria Beckham
(Michael Joseph, £16.99)

TAKE two routine showbiz extravaganzas — the life of a grunge guitarist who killed himself at 27, Mrs Beckham's ruminations on her career to date — throw them at the literary editors (at the height of the publishing season, too, when space is at a premium) and what, pray, is the result? Why, blanket coverage, including two whole columns in the *Sunday Times* given over to Kurt Cobain's miseries and a Cambridge don, even, hauled into the august pages of the *Sunday Telegraph* to appraise Posh's agonisings over whether she and Becks should pose nude for *Playboy*.

As the posh prints continue their trek down-market the books pages, formerly the last remotely highbrow bastion in Fleet Street, have had to follow suit. This process hasn't happened without a struggle, and in practically every newspaper HQ a savage little battle is currently being fought between a bright, enthusiastic literary editor who wants to review obscure first novels and some pop-eyed gauleiter worried about the youth market.

Inevitably there are points to be made on both sides. No need to stress the "ordinariness" of culture, or to suggest that someone who shoots himself after selling 15 million records and then appears on tee-shirts the world over is of more than passing interest. We knew that. All the same, it is possible to wonder exactly whose cultural interests are served by spreading Kurt and Posh all over the books pages.

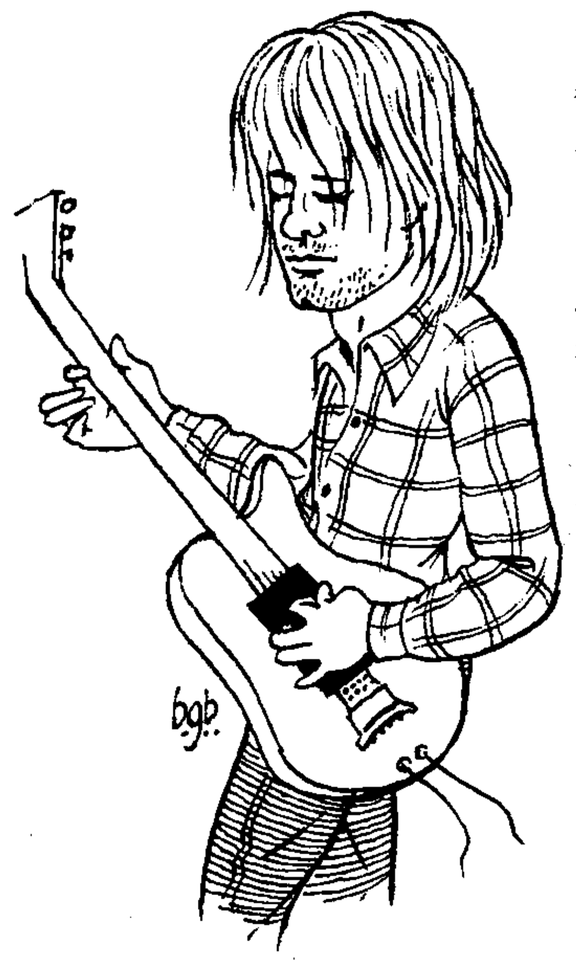
Mr Cobain, in case you happen to have passed the age of 40, was for the early 1990s generation what Joy Division's Ian Curtis, who died in similar circumstances in 1980, was for those for us who went to university ten years before. Relentlessly memorialised by the Seattle music journalist Charles R. Cross, in a work sponsored by Cobain's much-maligned widow Courtney Love, his career is basically a chronicle of drug abuse. Even the dealers, apparently, were so appalled by his opiate habit that they forbade him to shoot up on the premises.

As for Mrs B, well, *Learning To Fly* is an oddly guileless account of the progress of a stage-struck tiny who saw *Fame* at the age of eight and wouldn't rest thereafter until she had a slice of the good life. There are one or two minor points of interest — some mild cattiness directed towards Geri Halliwell and a faint suspicion that the book wasn't so much ghosted as cobbled together from tapes ("Me? Get involved with a footballer? No way"... etc) — and some amusing photographs, but really, that's about it.

And of course it is very funny to find a "serious" newspaper inviting John Adamson of Peterhouse, Cambridge, to set out for the masses what he thinks of Posh Spice. From the literary point of view, the implications scarcely bear thinking about. More space for Posh and Becks (whom everyone knows about anyway) means less space for those promising but unregarded first works.

To take a particularly deserving example, back in August Cape published a terrific novel by the young American writer Brady Udall. So far in the six weeks of its public existence *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* has attracted, well, it might be two reviews in the national press.

Call me a cultural snob, but there are few enough areas of our national media where the left-field and the obscure-but-deserving can be discussed with any seriousness. Meanwhile, bookshop browsers will have noticed the recent appearance of major new works by Rolf Harris, Vinnie Jones and Robbie Williams. No doubt the highbrow reviewers are already licking their lips.



Pseuds Corner

Travel unclenches the grip of unreality that chokes off so much of our engagement with life.

JEANETTE WINTERSON
Building Design

The centrepiece [of the Czech Philarmonic Orchestra's second prom], if not quite the high point, was Henri Dutilleux's Baudelaire-inspired cello concerto Tout un Monde Lointain, performed in honour of the composer's 85th birthday. It's a work imbued with erotic yearning, an evocation of the palpable mystery and beauty of sex. The cello's vibrating monody, dreamily played by Steven Isserlis, is enfolded in orchestral textures of quivering, almost tactile sensuousness. There are brief, rearing, phallic outbursts from the brass and slippery percussion caresses.

TIM ASHLEY
Guardian

The Marchioness of Worcester is not afraid to use her position in society to espouse her outspoken and strongly-held views on a diverse range of topics – from organic food to globalisation...

The Lady

Flap wind as flexuously as a ribbon, proposing, after a profusion of perpendicularity, the appeal of a slender, dynamic line. Thanks to a series of backs, armrests, headrests and movable front supports, Flap offers a wide variety of seating positions, thereby creating a different system of interpersonal relations. Rather than as a new sofa, Flap is better defined as an invention that prefigures hitherto unknown comfort opportunities.

Advertisement, *Wallpaper*

Being genuinely with the other in such circumstances goes against the grain of psychiatry. Rather than the orthodox 'doing to', psychiatric nurses need to enter the in-betweenness of their relationship with the 'other'. In this liminal space, the cultural forces of psychiatry as coloniser and patient as subaltern fuse into an ambivalent neither-nor.

PETER WILKIN
Mental Health Nursing

We were poor... We had a Volkswagen caravenette.

CAITLIN MORAN
Times Educational Supplement

Pseuds Corporate

Few brands deliver such an emotive impact.
When one of our letters lands on your doorstep, the expectation of what lies inside is tangibly felt. And it's clear evidence as to the power of our brand. It can move people. Most importantly [sic] it has the potential to communicate some great messages – about our organisation and the central role we play in contributing to society.

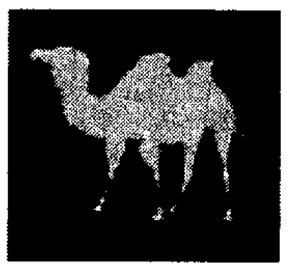
From an Inland Revenue recruitment ad

CONTRIBUTORS: Stephen Hackett, Nick Hart, Mrs M.R. Young, R. Hadfield, Rob Munro, S. O'Loughlin, Dr Meryl Tyers

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

THE CAMMELL'S HUMPS



IF THERE is anyone left who believes the best people to run industry are accountants, they should study the sad story of Cammell Laird's shipyard at Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Cammell Laird is a famous name in British shipbuilding. The aircraft carrier Ark Royal was built there. So was the cruise liner Windsor Castle. The yard was nationalised by the Labour government in the 1970s and then flogged off for a song by Margaret Thatcher's ministers to Vickers.

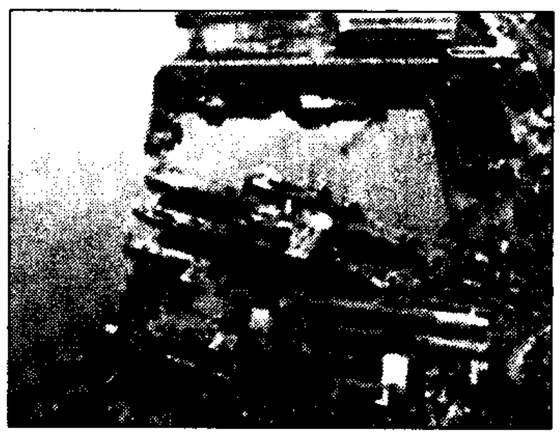
In 1993 Vickers stopped production at the yard, which was then rented by a holiday cruise company called Coastline, headed by a certified accountant, John Stafford. In 1995 Coastline took over the Cammell Laird name and in 1997, as "new" Labour took office, floated on the stock exchange. For two years the company flourished on the back of worldwide takeovers, masterminded by a new bunch of accountants recruited by Stafford.

Chartered accountant Martin Brett joined the board in 1998, as did two other chartered accountants: Jon Schofield, who became finance director in 1999; and Rowan Sumner. Under this leadership the group snapped up repair yards and dry docks in the US and the north-east, and the share price soared to 141p.

The glittering prize was a massive contract with the Italian cruise company Costa Crociere to insert a huge new section into the liner Costa Classica. The section was being built at the Birkenhead yard and the liner was on its way there when the Italian company's new owners, the US consortium Carnival, suddenly decided not to go through with the contract and ordered the ship back to Genoa.

Whoops! The careful accountants at Cammell Laird had not included any clauses for part-payments in the Italian contract. The company's debts, mainly because of the collapse of the Costa Classica contract, soared to more than £100m. This was too much for their bankers, the Royal Bank of Scotland, who in April this year called in receivers and closed the yard. Since then at least 1,500 workers have been made redundant, the share price has nose-dived to just over 6p, and the great name of Cammell Laird has once more become a by-word for slump and unemployment.

It was obviously time to call in some more accountants. The Royal Bank of Scotland nominated another famous name, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, as receiver for Cammell Laird. The magazine *Accountancy Age* last July proudly recorded the names of the experienced accountants brought in "to execute one of the largest industrial receiverships in recent years".



They included "team leader Ian Stokoe", who was "no novice to the emotive world of UK shipbuilders receiverships after his success a decade previously with Price Waterhouse securing the sale as a going concern of the famous Tyneside shipyard Swan Hunter". The magazine also named PWC partners Tony Lomas, Michael Horrocks and Edward Klempka as the rest of the "heavyweight team to take on the huge task of anatomising and disposing of the group".

The heavyweight team received a number of bids for Cammell Laird, including at least two from management buy-outs undertaking to try to maintain the yard as a going concern. On 12 April Mr Klempka told the *Liverpool Echo*: "We are confident that someone will come along and strip the business back to its core and keep it alive."

On 8 May a PWC spokesman said: "we don't anticipate any more redundancies". But the redundancies went on and on. In July, a last-minute bid for the company was submitted by a former managing director, Dave Gillen. He said: "The offer is based on the yard being sold as a going concern which would secure the jobs of the remaining employees." The bid was not accepted. The company and its business were knocked down instead to A&P, the large ship-repairers based in Southampton. A&P made it clear it had no intention of keeping Cammell Laird at work, or securing the jobs of any of its workers. On the contrary, A&P plainly regarded Cammell Laird as a potential competitor. Rather than building and repairing ships, therefore, the yards will probably be "developed" into luxury waterside homes of a type which redundant workers in Birkenhead are unlikely to be able to afford.

Two remarkable facts have not been widely publicised.

PricewaterhouseCoopers is auditor to, er, A&P.

Eighty percent of A&P is owned by RBPE, the "equity arm" of, er, the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Thus were the gutted remains of Cammell Laird flogged off by PricewaterhouseCoopers to a company owned by the bank which appointed them – and which employs PricewaterhouseCoopers. The *Eye* asked PWC whether it was appropriate for a receiver to sell to a company that employs the receiver. A spokesman replied: "It is our absolute duty to obtain the best price, and in this case it came from A&P." The *Eye* tried again:

Q: If the best price comes from a company that employs the receiver, doesn't that give rise to a possible conflict of interest, and wouldn't it be better to stand aside and leave the matter to another receiver?

A: I don't think there was a conflict of interest in this case.

Beverley Sanderson doesn't agree. Her husband Colin, a mechanical engineer, was sacked in August by Cammell Laird – for the third time in his life. She thinks there are two glaring conflicts of interest, and intends to raise both with the office of fair trading which is investigating the effects of the Cammell Laird fiasco on the principles of industrial competition.

She is not impressed with the letters she has had from government ministers (notably former socialist and workers' hero Brian Wilson) and DTI civil servants who boast of the millions of pounds of taxpayers' money they have doled out to privately-owned shipbuilding firms but insist they must remain "neutral" about any OFT decision on Cammell Laird.

PRISONS: JAILING THE GAOLERS

THE jailing of three Wormwood Scrubs prison officers — labelled "vicious thugs" by the judge – for kicking and beating an inmate in the London jail's notorious segregation unit, does not, sadly, draw a line under the dreadful events that continued unchecked at the jail for years.

A second major police investigation into nearly 40 more claims of assault is due to conclude with a file being sent to the crown prosecution service (CPS) in the next couple of weeks. More than 50 civil actions for damages are pending and at least six have already been settled by the home office.

Now there are disturbing questions about the standard of medical practice and ethics at the jail. The General Medical Council (GMC) is investigating complaints that doctors at the Scrubs failed to properly treat or protect inmate clients during five years of systematic abuse by warders.

Medical staff are said to have been repeatedly presented with inmates with injuries that could not possibly be reconciled with lawful detention or even the use of proper control and restraint. There were prisoners with facial cuts and bruises, bloody noses, broken teeth, fractures, wields and bruises all over their bodies — but doctors do not appear to have raised the alarm with anybody.

Similarly lawyers have compiled evidence for the GMC to show that even when prisoners reported to medical staff that they had been beaten — some of them seriously enough to be moved to the medical unit — there is no evidence to suggest that doctors submitted any reports on these serious allegations of gross misconduct.

Others inmates were too afraid to give doctors the cause of their injuries — often because doctors did not insist on having private consultations with their patients. The officers involved in the attack were often in the room and no doubt fearing a second kicking inmates would say they were "all right".

According to Daniel Machover, lawyer for more than 40 inmates: "The doctors appeared to be agents of the officers on the segregation block – not acting in the interests of their patients or indeed the prison service." The clamour for a public inquiry is now overwhelming.

Getting away with Murtagh

***EYE* readers might wonder what happened after complaints about bullying were levelled at prison service area manager Tom Murtagh in the wake of the Blantyre House debacle. The answer, it seems, is very little.**

It is now more than eight months since highly praised governor Eoin McLelland-Murray made his complaint after being unceremoniously removed from his post as Murtagh launched his now infamous botched night-raid on Blantyre. But prison service sources told the *Eye* that Murtagh hasn't even been interviewed by those investigating the complaints. Neither, it seems, have some of McLelland-Murray's witnesses.

Evidence in support of the ex-governor's allegations is in fact already in the public domain: after all, the claim that Murtagh was a bullyboy first came from the jail's board of visitors to the home affairs select committee last year, which produced a scathing report.

Given the speed at which the select committee could investigate and write a detailed report on much more complex issues, it is surprising the complaints against Murtagh and the Prison Service for breach of duty to Mr McLelland-Murray are taking so much longer. A memo which has just gone out to staff might provide the answer. It announces that one Adrian Smith is to take over Murtagh's job as area manager for Kent, Surrey and Sussex in January. How convenient if the complaint is not resolved until after Murtagh has quietly slipped into early retirement...

MORE NEEDLE OVER MMR

ANOTHER report appears on the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) triple vaccine in a medical magazine and yet another set of headlines appears to frighten parents: "Children put at risk by single vaccines", etc, etc.

Once again this new "hard-hitting report" is missing the point, however. Published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, the report reviews old research.

Most of it is devoted to rubbishing Andy *Wakefield*, the doctor whose work based on his young patients who have rare gut disease combined with unusual regressive autism, first raised doubts about MMR. The rest makes great claims for other pieces of so-called pro-MMR research – *Eye* readers may recall the Finnish study, the north London Brent-Taylor paper, etc – which do not help the debate one way or another.

In this latest paper, Wakefield's research which suggested the MMR vaccine was introduced without proper or sufficient safety trials is damned thus: "The paper contains no new information; it has many errors and is highly selective in the studies it includes…"

Er… except exactly the same claims can be made for the *Archives*' article. It contains no new information; indeed the commentary provided by Dr Elizabeth Miller, head of immunisation at the Laboratory of Public Health (more of which later) says it is an "overview". It also has many errors. Here are a few…

It says "using separate vaccines is an untried and untested policy". Actually such a policy is fully sanctioned by the World Health Organisation and is used in many countries in the developing world as well as countries like Japan, where MMR is not. Single measles jabs were used on British babies from 1967 until the introduction of MMR.

It says "there is no research evidence about the safety and effectiveness of the single vaccines used in this way". This is somewhat disingenuous, because although there is no post-MMR research into single jabs specifically, there have been studies like the 1994 one on an outbreak of measles in a highly immunised population. There, researchers found – *whoops!* – that the single measles vaccine had proven 100 percent effective, while the MMR was only 74 percent effective.

The paper says separate vaccines are not licensed in this country because none is now made which meets the licence requirements. How then have doctors been able to give single vaccines in the same dose and strain as that contained in MMR, because the Medicines Control Agency allows them for children who meet "special need" criteria – say a previous adverse reaction or recurrent febrile convulsions?

As to being "selective", the *Archive* paper questions the safety of two strains of mumps vaccine, Urabe and Rubini, which have both been found to be flawed. It does not mention the Jeryl Lynn strain, currently offered in a single dose.

Nor does it mention a paper by Dr Miller herself which found MMR links with a rare bleeding disorder; or a 1998 US study showing links between the measles component and rare cases of brain damage. And while it details the extensive use in the US of MMR for 30 years, it does not mention the US's national vaccine compensation programme, which in the last 10 years has paid out US$1bn to vaccine-damaged children – 14 percent of which has been paid out for MMR or its components.

The authors of the latest report are David Elliman and Helen Bedford, who acknowledge that they have received funding from vaccine manufacturers to conduct research and attend educational meetings. *Eye* readers will recall that Elliman was the immunisation co-ordinator for a London health authority which was urging doctors to give two doses of the MMR vaccination to toddlers only three months apart.

And the glowing commentary on the report was, as stated earlier, written by Dr Miller, who was one of the scientists involved in the first trial of MMR in the UK and which paved the way for its licensing. All three were at the government's £3m MMR relaunch.

As one parent of an autistic child told the *Eye*: "There are now millions being spent on research and endless reviews into vaccines and MMR. Most of it is meaningless, much of it funded by the manufacturers. Yet there are at least 3,000 children here with specific and similar problems and nobody – with the exception of Wakefield who is looking at about 200 – is researching them."

Lees-majésté

BRIAN LEES, shamed head of Glossopdale Community College (see *Eyes* 1031 and 1033), finally faced a disciplinary meeting before the school's governors last month after spending 19 months suspended on full pay while claiming to be sick with stress.

Charges against Lees include systematic theft of money and resources from the school – £38,528 over a period of 11 years – and accessing teen porn during school hours.

The crown prosecution service (CPS), which is hesitating over bringing criminal charges against Lees because of worries about his health, will be delighted to hear that the head was not too ill to put together a 50-page rebuttal of the charges, answered questions without difficulty, took copious notes and passed questions to his representative.

On the allegations that he had accessed porn, Lees's initial tactic was to blame his two sons. When further investigation revealed that the sons had been at universities many miles away at the time, even out of the country on one occasion, their father deftly shifted the blame on to his former pupils. They must, he claimed, have accessed his computer while he was out of the room... day after day after day.

And what about the 14 top-of-the-range computers he purchased out of school funds? Lees said he was storing them at home, er, until he would be able to open a computer suite for children with educational difficulties. His defence in respect of other charges was similarly convincing.

Lees was found guilty of "gross misconduct", which normally automatically results in summary dismissal. But the £66,000-a-year head who stole and lied for more than a decade did not deserve such a fate, the governors decided.

The disciplinary hearing ended in near farce when Lees's wife, Jean, was allowed to make an impassioned plea on behalf of her husband who, she claimed, had devoted his life and ruined his health fighting in the school's cause.

The board of governors in a disgraceful show of old buddy solidarity were quick to accept Mrs Lees' pleas of mitigation. To the great anger of the school's teaching staff who are talking about striking in protest and some individual governors, Lees was allowed to resign with pension rights intact… and return to his luxury apartment in a block close to York racecourse, where one of his neighbours is the Aga Khan.

FARRAND AWAY

SO FAREWELL then Julian Farrand QC, who finished his term as pensions ombudsman on 1 September. *Eye* readers will recall Dr Farrand's term in office, which in sharp contrast with those of his predecessors, was illuminated by several major victories on behalf of those who approached him, chief among whom was Frank Wheeler. Mr Wheeler's efforts, with the help of Dr Farrand, wrested some £300m from the government, stolen in 1986 from the pensioners of the privatised National Bus Company.

Who has been appointed by pensions secretary Alistair Darling to follow in these illustrious footsteps? Step forward David Laverick, not a trust lawyer nor an expert on pensions, but a solicitor who has worked for 20 years in the office of the north of England local government ombudsman.

The *Eye* understands that the appointments committee rejected several other highly-qualified candidates. The "person specification" issued by the government called for two years' management experience as an "essential requirement" for the job (though this automatically excluded most practising barristers), whereas an "understanding of the law relating to occupational pensions and personal pensions" was merely "desirable". Fat cat pension lawyers are now hoping Mr Laverick will adopt a more reverential attitude to the people who really matter – ie themselves.

FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS...

● **CAFCASS:** Disgruntled employees at the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (Cafcass) are furious that operations director Joe Kuipers managed to walk out of his three-month-old job with a golden handshake (said to be not far removed from £175,000 and equivalent to the combined annual salaries of seven much-needed children's guardians).

The deal included a gagging clause, but the *Eye* understands he left after a furious row with bosses after he revealed to staff that Carcass was in dire financial straits.

However, the *Eye* has seen copies of his monthly letters to staff, which illustrate why they are not exactly missing his operational skills. The first, entitled "looking out of the window", explains how gazing out reminds him that "you are all out there doing the business…"

A month later he described how Carcass was an organisation going through four stages of learning – the *unconscious incompetence* stage – "when we get it wrong without even realising it…"; the *conscious incompetence* stage – "when we know we are getting it wrong, but without the knowledge or capacity to solve the problems"; the *conscious competence* stage – "when we can see and identify the problems and consciously try to solve them and sometimes succeed"; and the *unconscious competence* stage – "when problems get solved without us even knowing that we are problem solving".

Shame Carcass seems stuck at stage one. Since the *Eye*'s last report on resignations from the board, it has emerged that in less than six months 20 of the 54 local managers for children's guardians have walked out. A similar exodus of guardians – the children's independent and vital voice in family and custody hearings – has only been temporally averted by the intervention of Mr Justice Scott Baker, who blamed Carcass for the "impending disaster" and ordered them back to the negotiating table with the guardians.

● MEANWHILE the *Eye* hears that the home office is also having trouble with another fledgling agency – the National Asylum Support Service (NASS aka NAFF).

Martyn Craske, its director, has walked out after only two months because he has found it a far bigger mess than he was led to believe. It takes months, rather than days, to process applications for support and the dispersal and accommodation system (*Eyes passim*) are in chaos.

Letters go unanswered and it can take hours to get through on the phone. The *Eye* has been furnished with this example of NAFF's competence. A letter to asylum seekers reads: "If you have not received this letter you should contact NASS immediately on the number given above." Some mistake, surely? Sadly not.

You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

BRITISH and other banks are having to reassess their rush to embrace Islamic banking – the type that not only does not pay but also (gulp) does not charge interest – as a result of the global hunt for the cash arteries of the fundamentalist Muslim terrorist network linked to Osama bin Laden.

For while those behind the World Trade Center and Pentagon suicide attacks rely mainly on cash and traditional "hawala" money transfer systems for the relatively small sums required for the one-way ticket to paradise, there is growing evidence that bin Laden and his partners in terror have also been good customers of the rapidly growing Islamic banking sector. Hardly surprising as supposed faithful followers of the Koran.

Islamic banking seems to have been one of the three alternative financial systems Osama bin Laden declared last week were available to him run by those "who love jihad" or the holy war against the US and its allies.

As a result European banking regulators are understood to have last month circulated the names of five banks, four of them Islamic banks, in Dubai, Bahrain, Kuwait and Sudan. All are suspected of possibly handling Bin Laden or terrorist funds.

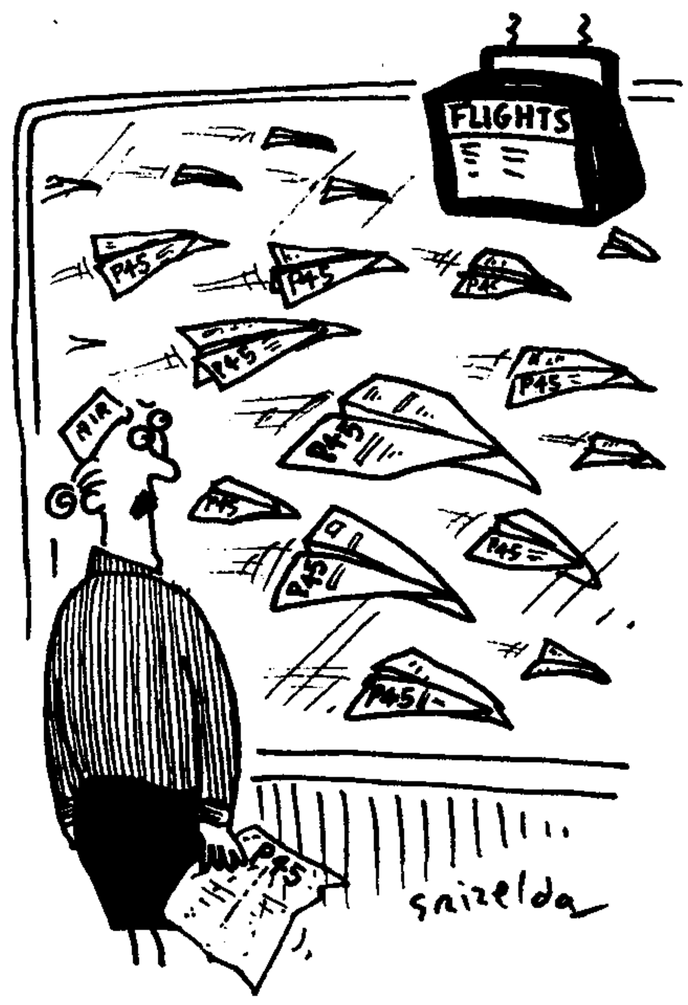
One of the two Sudanese banks named is the Al Shamal bank in Khartoum which bin Laden reportedly helped to found when he was based in Sudan during the early 1990s. The other is the Faisal Islamic Bank – there are similar named banks in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. UK regulators are examining Al Shamal's business with its correspondent banks in London – the City-based British Arab Commercial Bank (BACB) and Banque Francaise de l'Orient (BFO) in Mayfair.

BACB's majority shareholder is HSBC which, because of its long links into the Middle East, has been very active in expanding into the Islamic banking market, as has Barclays. Though not an Islamic bank, BACB has a large Islamic banking unit. HSBC's main partner in BACB is effectively none other than Sudan's neighbour, Col Gadaffi, via the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank.

BFO is controlled by the French banking giant Credit Agricole Indosuez and the interests of Lebanese businessman and politician Rafik Hariri. Previously BFO's main claim to London fame was its role in handling huge amounts of cash from mainly Nigerian bagmen who lugged suitcases of CFA francs, the currency used in Francophone West Africa, into the bank for conversion into other currencies during the early 90s before the artificially high CFA conversion rate to the French franc was abolished. This legal money-go-round saw the CFA francs sent to France and then back to West Africa *while* the dollars they usually bought stayed in London or went to Switzerland or bought more goods smuggled into the CFA zone for cash payment and return to Europe.

Two of the other Islamic banks on the "watch list" also have respectable pedigrees. The Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) is effectively controlled by the United Arab Emirates ruling family. Previously DIB was best known for losing more than $200m to a conman from Mali who bank officials claimed had used black magic to persuade them to lend him the money.

Two years ago the US sent a delegation to Dubai after obtaining evidence that bin Laden had been using the bank to transfer funds with the approval of its officials. The UAE promised to



clean up DIB's act. That would seem now to be in question as it is suggested that funds from the bank or another in Dubai may have been transferred to Florida to finance flying lessons for the suicide hijackers.

DIB is actively involved in Gulf banking deals with banks such as HSBC, the London branch of Arab Bank and Citibank. Only in August it was part of a syndicate which provided $103m for an Airbus sold to Emirates airline and guaranteed by the UK export credit guarantee department.

The Dubai bank works closely with another name on the watch list – Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the country's second biggest bank. KFH is also tied to reputable figures in the oil rich sheikhdom. KFH has expanded into Islamic banking deals with DIB and also with another targeted bank, Bahrain Islamic Bank, in which they were founder shareholders with Kuwait and Bahrain government interests.

KFH has done banking deals in the region with Standard Chartered and ABN-Amro, both of which have historic links to the Gulf, and Citibank. It uses such "white shoe" advisers as accountants Ernst & Young and Pricewaterhouse-Coopers as well as lawyers Allen & Overy.

All the banks involved deny any knowing involvement with Osama bin Laden or terrorist funds. But it is not just for religious reasons that Islamic banks would be chosen. Banking controls in the Middle East are not renowned for their rigour before adding the fact that many influential individuals in the region sympathise with Islamic fundamentalism and oppose US and European policies towards Israel and Iraq. And because of the pro-western stance of the Gulf states and the international connections of their banks, they make ideal conduits to move money anywhere without question.

In a similar way Muslim charitable funds raised in mosques and from wealthy individuals can be moved around the world by organisations such as the International Islamic Relief Organisation. IIRO is heavily sponsored by the Saudi royal family – its past donors have included billionaire Saudi investor Prince Al-Waleed, a major shareholder in Citibank. It is on no list of terrorist suspects or sanctions targets yet it has been linked to the bin Laden network by individuals or investigations in Kenya, India, the Philippines, the US and Canada.

An affiliate of the Muslim World League, the IIRO raised between £25m and £50m a year during the 90s which it spent on projects in some 70 countries including Afghanistan and Chechnya where bin Laden has loyal supporters. IIRO admits to giving some $60m to the Taliban alone for humanitarian relief.

But hiding or laundering terrorist funding amid such respectable cash flows would be easy. Years of monitoring money raised in London pubs and New York bars for IRA prisoners has failed to discover what happens to the money once it reaches bank accounts in Ireland.

Similarly, US investigators suspect that just as Osama bin Laden can count on support from influential Arab businessmen and among ruling families he is also not entirely ostracised by all of his many relatives in one of Saudi Arabia's richest families. Something which may embarrass former prime minister John Major, who is European head of the Washington-based Carlyle private equity group. The bin Laden family have been substantial and successful investors in its Carlyle Partners II fund. But then Carlyle also has close ties to both presidents Bush.

British, American and European banks are about to learn that chasing a share of the Middle East's ocean of petro-dollars has come at an unexpected price. Less than a year ago one of the now UN-banned Afghan banks was boasting that it would shortly be establishing connections in London as well having representation in New York, France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. Money after all has no smell.

AFTER several days of fevered speculation and dramatic headlines about the huge financial killing made by the evil mastermind Osama bin Laden by going "short" or taking out "sell" options on airline and insurance shares ahead of the suicide attacks, newspapers and regulators have finally woken up to another James

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE/RIGG

THEY CALL THEMSELVES ANTI-CAPITALISTS!
MEGACORP HQ
I'M AN ANTI-CAPITALIST DAMMIT! THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT!
I WANT TO PUT ALL THE OTHER CAPITALISTS OUT OF BUSINESS!
99.

Stock Horror

Marconi invents the vanishing share

Value of £100 invested a year ago in...

...Marconi (formerly GEC)

...a building society account

Bond-style fantasy.

First off, how would such an operation have *been synchronised* in New York, Chicago, London, Paris, Zurich and Milan from camps or *caves in* Afghanistan without a leak or intercept? But more importantly, how exactly would these "profits of doom" have been collected by "the world's biggest insider dealer" (*Sunday Telegraph*, 23 September)?

All such deals leave paper trails. All have to involve brokers or banks or fiduciaries who would have been made an offer they could not refuse to tell what they knew. And the FBI and friends would have been waiting for anyone who went to collect the "millions" involved. No wonder regulators in all the countries suggested have failed to find any evidence of "how the terrorists made millions by sophisticated trading before they attacked". But then why let facts get in the way of a good story, especially one that helps to demonise the enemy?

WITH major airlines in a tailspin and trans-Atlantic travel facing a severe downturn, the crunch could well be coming for the Branson empire which is so heavily dependent on the cash generated by Virgin Atlantic Airways. Branson was quick to cut services and staff and to join the chorus of calls from British carriers for government help to match that being handed out to American rivals.

Partner Singapore Airlines has its own problems enhanced by those facing its other ailing associate Air New Zealand and its subsidiary Ansett in Australia which has filed for bankruptcy. So it may be unable if not already unwilling – as shown with Ansett – to step in with more money even if it was allowed to by UK regulations.

Even before 11 September Branson was forecasting a tough year because of "intense competition, high fuel prices and in particular a weak pound" which had particularly hit the premium business travel market. Since then the business traveller has been preferring his desk to joining the bearded wonder's mile high club.

The latest airline parent Virgin Atlantic's accounts to last April reveal Branson's cash problems a year after selling a 49 percent stake to Singapore Airlines for £550m. Cash flow fell by £117m during the year against a previous increase *of £166m. Net* debt doubled from £80m to £169m. And that was after a year in which the airline's sales rose and profits fell only slightly.

No wonder there are rumours that billionaire Branson is looking to raise £50m following the near £70m borrowed from Lloyds TSB in May in return for a charge on the airline's assets.

SADLY New York brokers Cantor Fitzgerald, who lost some 700 staff in the World Trade Center, have far more important matters to worry about than their sponsorship of British heavyweight boxing hope Audley Harrison. But after the Olympic gold medallist's unimpressive second over-hyped outing Cantor, like the BBC which has £1m riding on Harrison, would be forgiven for thinking they might have been better putting their money on that other heavyweight TV personality with the same initials – celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott.

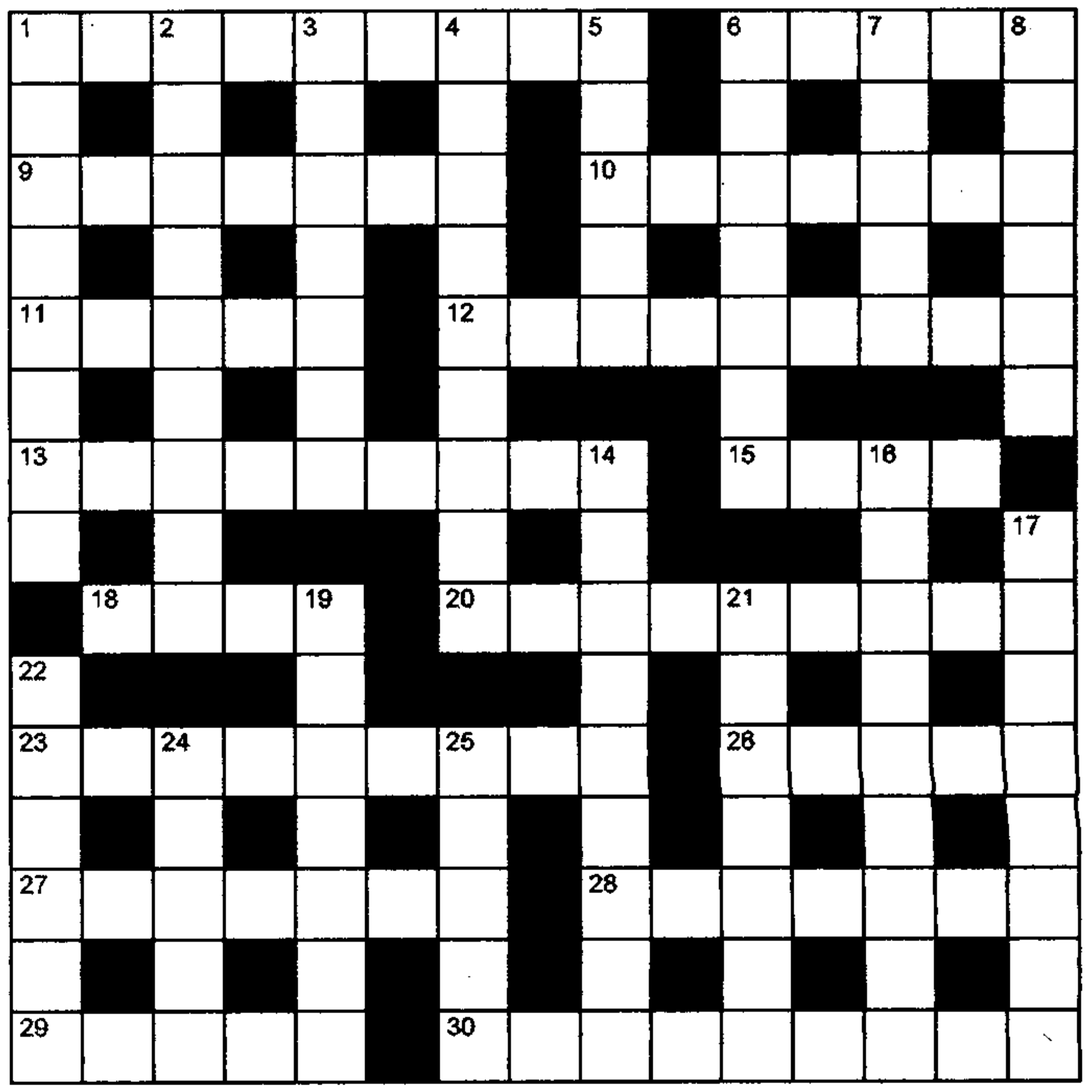
'Slicker'

EYE CROSSWORD 193

by Cyclops

£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 12 October 2001.

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk



ACROSS

1/6ac. Two crotchety masters coupled under the table (6,3,5)
9 Extended coverage of beer belly location (7)
10 This organ has black and white sheath lit up (3-4)
11 Act over the top, last of booze having gone to Mark (5)
12 Di, if over-tipsy, gets shafted by a broadcaster (5,4)
13/15 'Wet' upset, like, a New Labour leader initially (6,2,1,4)
18 So, imbibing pure scotch starters multiplied Cleo's downfall (4)
20 Trouble expressing your thoughts, being without Ecstasy, pissed (a YHA fiasco) (9)
23 Entertainer's drink dispenser/hopper (3-6)
26 Liqueur's first given to topless girl, a creepy thing (5)
27 Fool getting whisky measure in a famous Hugh Grant picture? (7)
28 Places army officer back on the booze (7)
29 Modicum of quiet, general sort of wine (5)
30 Bombed and so the recipient of first aid treatment (9)

ACROSS

1 Occasions for taking piss out of pubes flashed outside flipping menagerie (5-3)
2 Bitter retailers bitched: "EU ass-hole!" (3-6)
3 *Islanders*' whisky needs directions (7)
4 And symbolically sprinkled Parmesan on top of Drambuie (9)
5 Pointlessly pissed after affair on a trip (5)
6 Rest are found at the 'Feathers' (3-4)
7 Thirsty? Libation has its points (5)
8 Dick, stewed, got red (6)
14 Country boozer centre (9)
16 Carol meets Brenda the boozer (9)
17 Tight-bottomed Roland comes first (3-5)
19 *Loaded*'s getting pulped (7)
21 Blind batsman's uncompleted stroke (4,3)
22 Trunks – their owner won't be legless (6)
24 Squire on *ration* of rum is alerter (5)
25 Distressed, immersed in drinking-vessel, starts to utter "Tossers!" (3,2)

Crossword 192 winner LUCY WILLIAMS

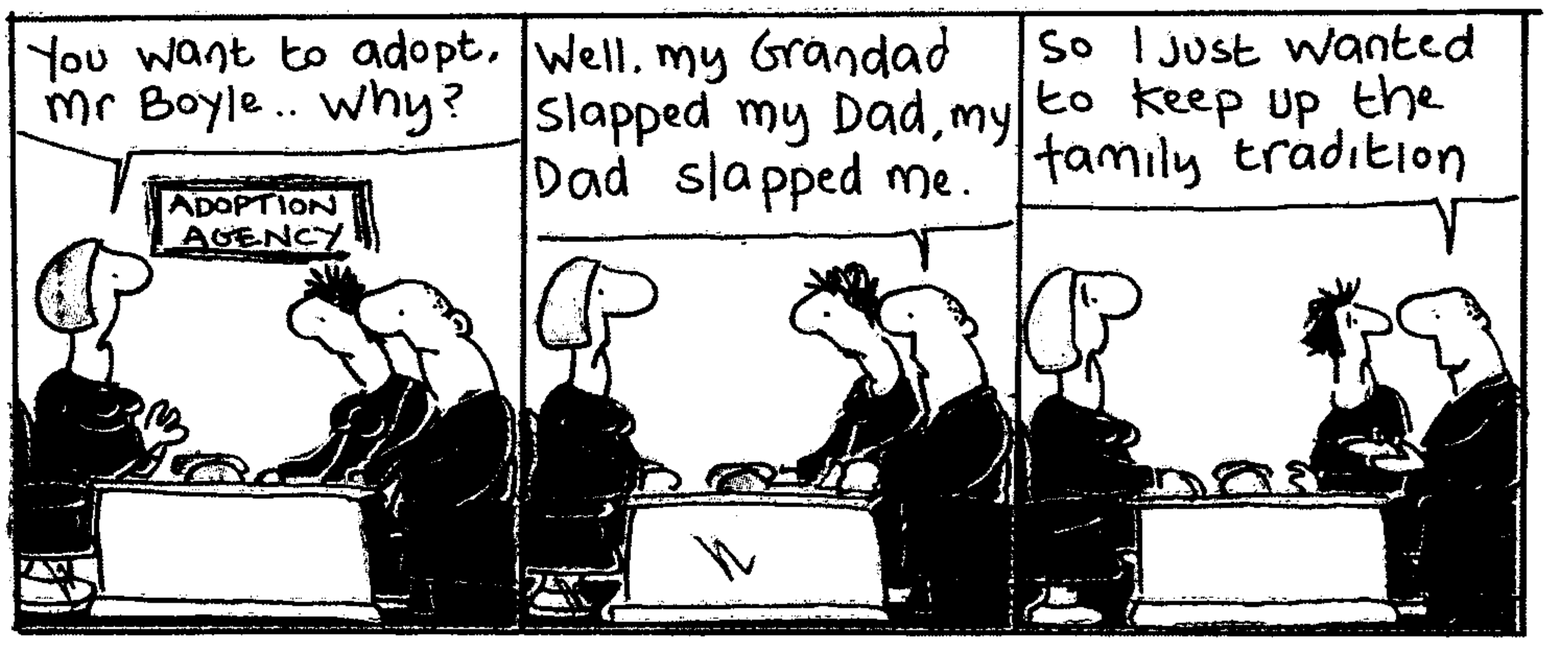
Solution to Crossword 192

ACROSS: 1 Bus stop 5 Scumbag 9 Garbo 10/18ac. Like a blue-arsed fly 11 Humdinger 12 Say-so 13 Tahiti 15 Sky pilot 19 Okapis 22 Dumps 24 Marinated 26 Tenseness 27 Final 28 Royal We 29 Renfrew.

DOWN: 1 Big shot 2 Scram 3 Two-fisted 4 Phlegm 5 Sikorsky 6 Urals 7 Belly flop 8 Goes out 14 Hush money 16 Poking fun 17 All my eye 18 Auditor 20 Sod's law 21 Eraser 23 Swell 25 Tenor.

Yobs

HUSBAND


You want to adopt, mr Boyle.. why?
ADOPTION AGENCY
Well. my Grandad slapped my Dad, my Dad slapped me.
So I just wanted to keep up the family tradition

Indian Meals from £2.25 (one-course offer)

WAITROSE

food shop of the John Lewis Partnership

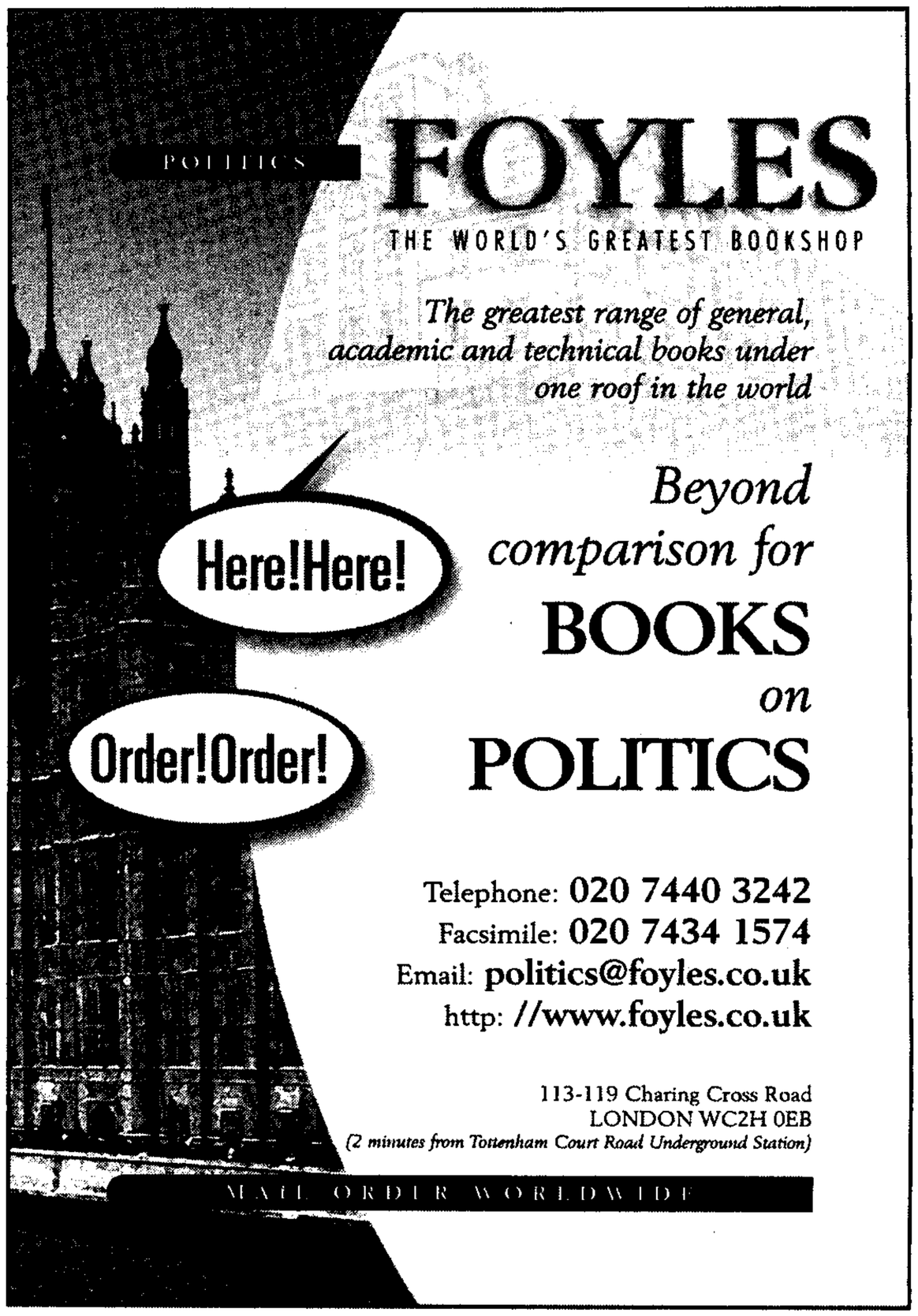
www.waitrose.com

Sumit Malik, "International Indian Chef of the Year" travelled throughout India in search of local ingredients and authentic recipes.
So now you only have to travel to Waitrose to enjoy a regional Indian meal. Find out more at www.waitrose.com/indian_meal.

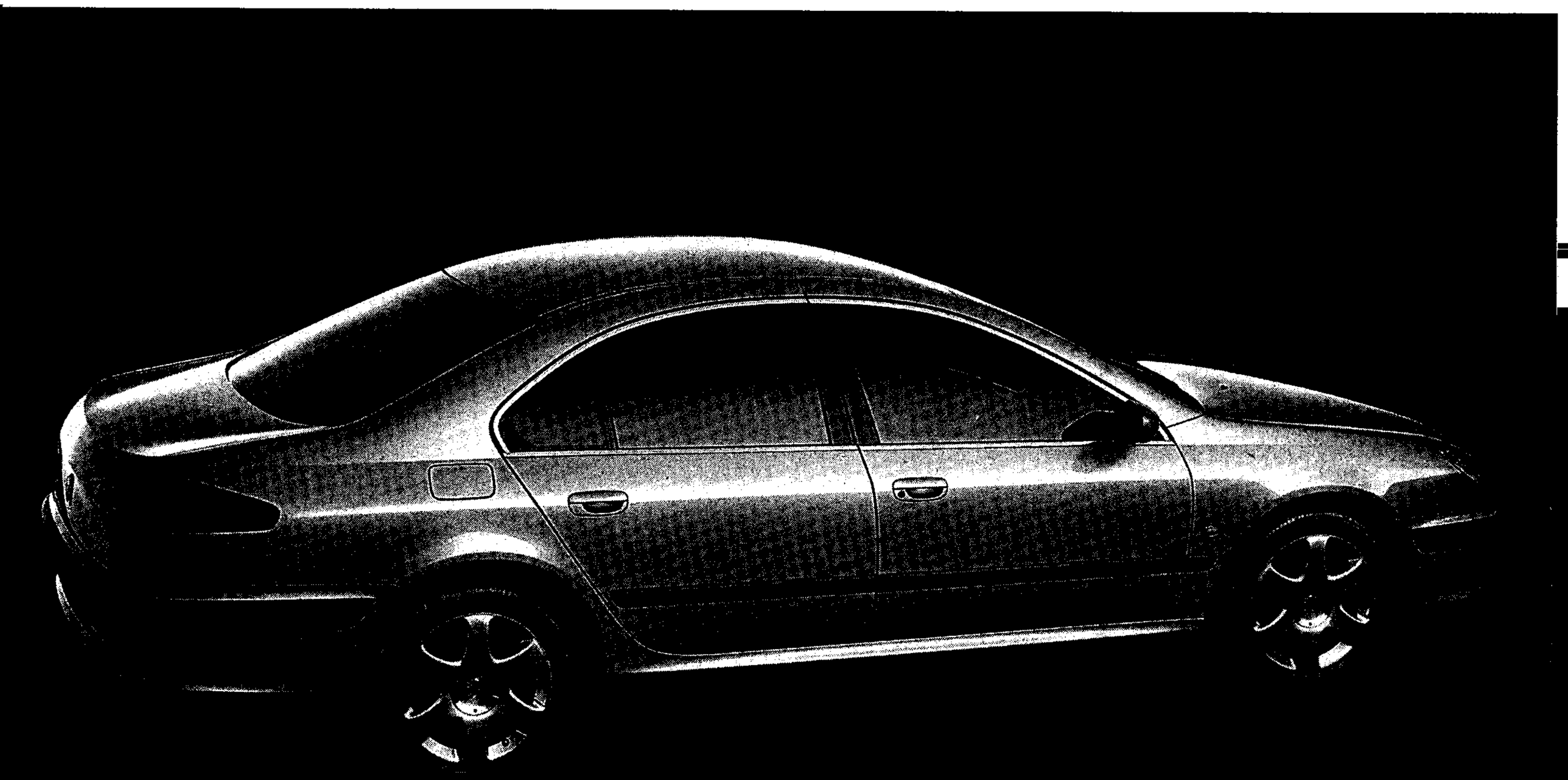
DON'T MISS
the FREE 4-part History of Private Eye Cartoons

PRIVATE EYE
The History of Private Eye Cartoons
Part 1 – The 1960s
60s, 70s, 80s, 90s – PHEW, WHAT A CARTOON COLLECTION!
PRIVATE EYE
PRIVATE EYE

If you *have* missed
PART 1 – The 1960s or
PART 2 – The 1970s
then ring
020 7228 0588 to order
a back copy or visit
www.private-eye.co.uk



Model shown SE 2.2 litre HDi FAP from £22,895 MRRP. 17"Alloy Wheels an option at extra cost.



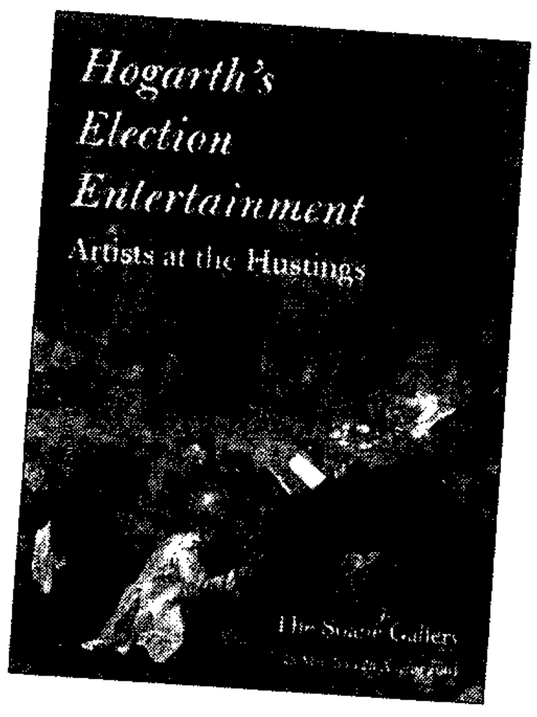
THE NEW PEUGEOT 607

The Peugeot 607 range from £18,195 MRRP.

The Laing Art Gallery
presents

Hogarth's Election Entertainment

Saturday 6 October 2001 to Sunday 6 January 2002
THE LAING ART GALLERY



With 'Election Entertainment' as the *theme*, the four Hogarth paintings and a selection of political cartoons and covers are just some of the works on display.

For this exhibition the finest descendants of An Election have been gathered from galleries and museums in Britain and abroad to hang with Hogarth's masterpieces.

The Laing Art Gallery, New Bridge Street,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8AG
Open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm
Admission Free

Save over £12 on the UK cover price when you subscribe now to

PRIVATE EYE

Complete the form below and send with your payment to:
PRIVATE EYE Subscriptions, Mortimer House,
230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE.

Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year (26 issues) to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Your daytime telephone number: _____
(in case we have a query with the order)

☐ UK £19.00 ☐ Europe & Eire £27.00 ☐ Rest of World £35.00
Overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order

☐ I enclose a Sterling cheque made payable to PRIVATE EYE **or**

☐ Please charge my MasterCard / Visa

Card number: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

Signature _____

Or order today on our 24-hour credit card hotline:
020 7228 0425 / 6457

For enquiries call: 020 7228 0588 Or send a Fax: 020 7924 3719

What every man needs. A car with six appeal.

2 front, 2 side and 2 curtain airbags as standard. Vital statistics from Peugeot.

For more information call 0845 200 1234. www.peugeot.co.uk/607

PEUGEOT

specialEYEs

gifts

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

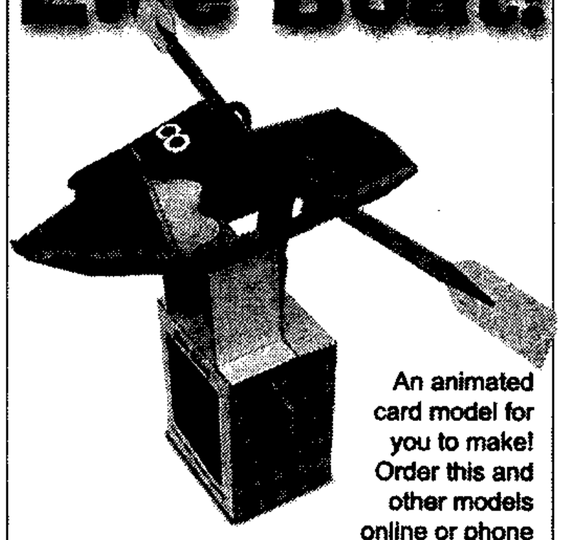
Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements... Papers from archives 1642-2001. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN

445 Brighton Road, Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

Eye Boat!



An animated card model for you to make! Order this and other models online or phone for a catalogue 01900 814333

www.flying-pig.co.uk

Dont send flowers send **r★fur...**

...and your message will last forever

Happy Anniversary, Congratulations, Happy Birthday or I Love You... let R★Fur deliver your personal message, tucked safely inside his rucksack, with massive style and impact, whatever the occasion...

R★Fur is a quality mohair bear, designed by Stacey Lee Terry, internationally famous for her collectable Bo Bear designs

to send R★Fur: - (secure online ordering)
www.sendrfur.com

or call: (lines open 24 hours)
0870 755 7387
+44 (0)1280 823905 outside UK

*Includes Royal Mail First Class Post. Special Delivery & overseas destinations available at extra cost.

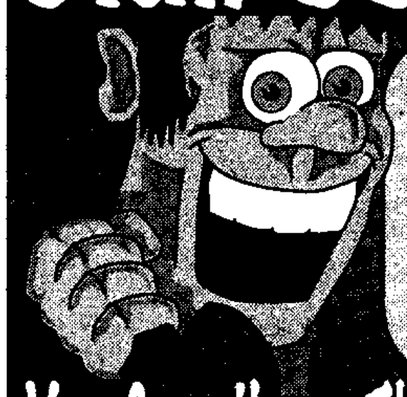
approx 20cm tall ™© Bo Bear Designs 2001 - all rights reserved.

only £35.

jokelines

Listen To A Friend Being Sent Round The Bend!!

Dial: 09067 365 779



Choose A Joke

Mr Fury • Irate Delivery Driver • Invite From No.10
The Detective • Tax Inspector • The Lawyer From Hell

Dial Your Friend's Number

(Catch Your Victims At Home - In The Office Or On Their Mobile - There Is No Escape)

When They Answer The Joke Starts

You Can Hear Them...But They Can't Hear You!

Calls cost £1.00 at all times - Phone Fun, 78 York Street, London W1H 1DP

Communications Team

Looking for somewhere to advertise?

Call: 020 7923 5416

speciality foods

Tracklements — Traditional Food since 1970 — Accompaniments

our Chilli Jam is Really hot stuff!

Powerful, packed with the power of fresh chillies, this is not a tracklement for the faint hearted. Good at spicing up noodles or dipping up fish kebabs.

You won't find our range of mustards, sauces, chutneys and relishes in the supermarkets, but you can run them to earth in good independent delicatessen, butchers, farm shops and fishmongers. For full details and nearest stockist please get in touch.

www.tracklements.co.uk

Sherston, Wiltshire, SN16 ONX.
Tel: 01666 840851 (Fax: 840022)

Supporting your local specialist retailer!

speechwriting

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES

CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL

Fully Customised and confidential

MAKE EM LAUGH
OR NO FEE!

Emergency Speeches Undertaken

Britain's leading Professional

MITCH MURRAY

01624 622660

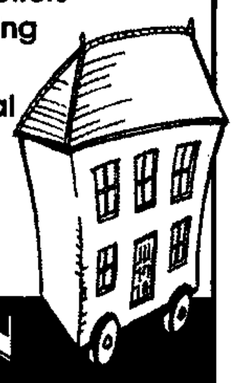
Visa - Mastercard

conveyancing

EYE SAVE CONVEYANCING COSTS

Long established Solicitors offer City conveyancing at provincial prices

Fast, easy professional postal service by qualified Solicitors



BLACK NORMAN

Please call us on freephone
0800 435 794
for a quote asking for ref: P.I.1

surveillance

DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT - WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!

Disloyalty can be dangerous. It's often damaging and invariably hurtful. Commercially, it's usually expensive. You may not like the idea of using 'bugging' equipment but it can heighten your awareness and help you anticipate. You'll be amazed how we conceal microphones and tiny cameras in the most innocent and ordinary everyday objects.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.
Fax: 020 8558 1338
Central London Showroom:
59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
Web Site: www.lorraine.co.uk

TEL: 020 8558 4226

meeting people

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263

www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk

Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

literature

POETRY OLYMPICS MARATHON

Come to the first **POM!** Festival on Thurs 4 Oct at The Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 – featuring PATIENCE AGBABI, MICHAEL HOROVITZ, FRIEDA HUGHES, INGE ELSA LAIRD, FRAN LANDESMAN, PAUL McCARTNEY, ADRIAN MITCHELL, TOM PICKARD, LEMN SISSAY, KEITH WAITHE and others
from 7.30 till late
bookable in advance (from £7.50–£30, less 20% concs)
Tel **020 7494 5044 (24hrs)**, or in person

POM? Poetry Olympics Marathon

cartoons

Cartoon Gallery

Steve Bell Book Signing

Race down to the Cartoon Gallery on Saturday October 20th between 2pm to 4pm, when **Steve Bell** will be signing copies of his new book ***UNSTOPPABLE IF...*** An accompanying exhibition of his original If...strips and editorial cartoons will run from Oct 20th to Nov 2nd, in the gallery and on our website. Please call us to order signed copies of the book, priced at £10.99 plus £3.50 postage.

The Cartoon Gallery is downstairs at: Gosh! 39 Great Russell St.
London WC1B 3NZ tel: 020-7636-1011 fax: 020-7436-5053
e mail: cartoongallery@easynet.co.uk web site: www.cartoongallery.co.uk

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club

welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.

Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late

Membership not required.

17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

services

...text..mates...

NO.1 TEXT MESSAGE CHAT & DATE

..MATCHES & MESSAGES DIRECT TO YOUR MOBILE..

100's of Matches in your area NOW..

0800 3767 365 CALL FREE NOW!

Anoraks! Check it out!

It's now possible to browse through highlights of Private Eye Magazine – including cartoons, features, articles, regulars, funnies, ads & the cover at

www.private-eye.co.uk

Phone Bar

Swap messages and connect live 1-to-1 with other callers, 24 hours a day. Always at least 20 women on line, with up to 80 at busy times!

09066 144 149

Calls cost 60p/min. PhoneTime, POBox 4DZ, London, N1

Mobile Matches!

THE EXCITING NEW WAY TO TEXT AND DATE

FREE PHONE

LET MOBILE MATCHES FIND YOUR IDEAL TEXT PARTNER TODAY !

0800 376 6393

A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION FROM

PRIVATE EYE

NOT THE FOOT AND MOUTH REPORT

Everything Tony Blair didn't want you to know about the biggest blunder of his premiership

REVEALED IN THIS REPORT – the inside story of how the Blair government's handling of this crisis became a chapter of maladminstration without parallel, involving:

- **the illegal destruction of millions of healthy animals**
- **handing over direction of strategy to scientists without any expertise in animal diseases**
- **lawbreaking by government officials on an unprecedented scale**
- **the massaging of official figures to support Tony Blair's election plans**

Had the government heeded advice from the world's top foot-and-mouth experts, the epidemic could have been halted within weeks, restoring the UK's export trade sooner, saving rural communities from despair and Britain's countryside from a financial, social and environmental disaster.

On sale 26 October at newsagents £1.50
To order direct call 020 7228 0425
or visit www.private-eye.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

020 7837 4566

£2.25 per word (£22.50 min charge)
Boxed style £10 Box Number £8
Listing on Private Eye Website
www.private-eye.co.uk: £7.50
All charges VAT inclusive
Reply to Box Numbers at address below

Deadline for next issue: 9th Oct

privateeye@communications-team.co.uk
Fax: 020 7923 5401
Feedback form: www.private-eye.co.uk

Communications Team, Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH

EYE CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES

WWW.JOKESHOP.COM for everything from the famous MAGIC JOKE SHOP in Cambridge. Viewers of the adult section must be over 18.

PROPERTUNITY – 'the game of opportunity in property' Visit www.propertunity.com

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR and HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE still exist. For charity funds we offer real titles, ranks, degrees, awards. Details Count van der Hoort, HRE Offices, POB72, 8102 Paphos, Cyprus

MAKING LOVE. Magnificent collections of explicit, erotic art. Details and samples, send £5.99, PO Box 236, Leeds LS17. Make cheques to BLACKSCARLET DRAWINGS.

INSULT RULES. Non-insulting offer secures domains upyoursbaby.co.uk, upyoursbaby.com, upyourfanny.com E-mail to: martinb@netcomuk.co.uk

SCOTTISH POSTCARDS – vintage originals, including Edwardian. 20 for £9.99. Cheques AMGARCHIVE, PO Box 8468, Prestwick, KA9 2YH.

KEEP IT UP FRONT – we print your message on hipflasks. 10 printed with logo from £99 peter@hipflasks.co.uk – Tel: 0777972 4408

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE – your unique message printed on the label delivered NEXT DAY nationwide – £29 – 020 7737 8030. www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

PHOTOBANNERS For Birthdays, Weddings, Parties, Exhibitions and Displays – 6' BANNER with photograph – £39.95, without – £29.95 0121 241 7878 – www.ctgraphics.co.uk

FRAMED ORIGINAL NUMBER ONE HIT RECORDS dated the day your Number One was born! £19.95. 01509 854483 – www.geocities.com/numberonerecords

GET EVEN. Send anonymous avenging E-mails for free from www.HillmanAvenger.com.

GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD in your life – www.redandproud.com – Tel: 01844 346356.

"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!" Shop for fun @ www.gizmoandwidget.com

TITLE PLUS LAND for £20. HONEST! Details: SURVIVAL,(P), The Cabin, STRATHY, Scotland, KW14 7RY.

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS FREEPHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

IMPRESSIVE CERTIFICATES MADE TO ORDER. s.a.e. to P.L. Quinn, 54 Murat Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QW. E-mail degreee3@pobox.com

HYDROPONIC GROW LIGHTS – FREE mail-order brochure – 0800 056 1875. www.growell.co.uk

EYE SELL

www.seaford-music.co.uk – CLASSICAL CDS, SHEET MUSIC and Titterton Violins. Tel: 01323 732553.

JUMP INTO BED WITH US and get your new Vi-Spring bed at a cheaper price than your local store – www.jumpintobed.com

NEED A NEW HI-FI? For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! FOR A FREE BARGAIN-PACKED CATALOGUE, call 0845 1 300 200.

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – MARQUEE SALE of Old Oriental rugs at our Kent Country House, 6th, 7th October. Mostly £100-£3000. Card, details: DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

CARIBBEAN HERBAL high smoking mix – 100% legal. £5.00 per pack, postpaid. Erwin, PO Box 120, Newtownabbey, UK.

LOGS DELIVERED, LONDON. Quality seasoned hardwood 10 x 40lb sacks – £75. 020 8691 4984.

REGISTER.CO.UK DOMAIN NAMES FOR £10 AND .COM NAMES FOR £18 for more details visit http://www.a-q.co.uk or Tel: 0800 389 5815.

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX HIRE for parties. 7" vinyl and/or CDs. Delivered. From £119 – 020 8318 2852.

www.stevewalton.co.uk free mp3 downloads.

EYE READ

CRIME SCENE. The trade bible for geezers. Issue One £2 from Box 1060, Kingston, KT1 2WQ.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

FREE BOOKSEARCH – no purchase obligation. TWIGGERS BOOKS 020 8878 8644. E-mail twiggers@btinternet.com

PUBLISH FOR PROFIT with www.NoSpine.com – 100s of titles available on-line.

BOOKS FOR YOU and your business – www.hermitpoint.com

EYE BUYS

38 RARE EYES – 14-59 offers to 01271 850702.

450 EYES – September 74 to today. offers phone 01993 842184.

PE – MANY ISSUES collected over the years. Offers invited. MARCIA 020 7720 7617.

EYES 1977 to date. Offers: 0121 440 4097 after 6pm.

EYE LOVE

WARM SENSITIVE, ARTICULATE MAN, active, young sixties, GSOH – enjoys arts, conversation, good food and wine – open marriage – seeks sensual woman friend/lover for special relationship. South London. Box 1237.

WRITER/ENTERTAINER, 35 but no baggage, seeks rich girl for fun – maybe future. Photo appreciated London. Box 0337.

RAPIDLY AGEING PROFESSIONAL (f.w.o) seeks, friend, muse, and mistress Tunwells area. Box 0237.

GREAT CATCH. Tall, handsome, witty, unattached man with PhD and passion for life, seeks intelligent, professional, easy-going attractive woman, 26-32, n/s, small-medium build, to share fun and love. London 1137.

TALL, HANDSOME London Professional (attached, 54) needs lovely lady friend and lover. Please E-mail: cityygent@aol.com

GOOD LOOKING, FEMININE, stylish, slim, sassy, writer, entrepreneur, 5'5" (40's). Humorous, sophisticated, unpretentious. Divorced, independent and ready to build meaningful relationship. You? Box 0837.

NW WOMAN SEEKS MATE, (50s+). Box 0737.

PRETTY WOMAN, SLIM, 50's. Loves to laugh. Happy-natured, loving, intelligent. WLTM man for mutual appreciation, TLC, adventures and perhaps LTR. ala Worcestershire/W. Midlands. Box 4036.

ATTRACTIVE, TRUSTWORTHY, spiritual and slim lady – young 40's – seeks a similar humorous friend/partner for life (45 to 53) to inspire each other and rejoice in peace, classical music, reading and walking. Faith love and hope are all in the waiting. London. Box 1337.

MISTRESS AVAILABLE. Suitor sought. Box 3331.

MILDLY KINKY Professional guy, 47, tired of marital routine, seeks similar lady 30 plus for entwining exploration. London/M40 – jones2001@bushinternet.com

STRICT BUT KIND – Upper-class Englishman – presentable, solvent, fifties – seeks a disobedient lady living in London or home counties. Discretion assured – so pluck up your courage write with your telephone number and best time to phone. Box 1636.

GOOD LOOKING CITY GUY – married but needs excitement – would love to meet girlie aged 20s to 30s with same needs, in London area. Contact: guycity@hotmail.co.uk

HANDSOME and athletic Warwickshire graduate (36) in happy, open marriage, seeks attractive woman. Box 2436 or E-mail: blimey4@hotmail.com

ATTRACTIVE, SUCCESSFUL, happily married man, offers to father child for suitable woman in return for ongoing contact/support (wife can't have children). Box 1936.

INTELLIGENT, open-minded independent, happy, enthusiastic and successful woman (26) with very wide range of interests (including literature, theatre, music, history, current affairs, social ethics, good food, wine, conversation and travel) seeks similar man (24-35 for fun, friendship, laughter and mental stimulation, possibly leading to lasting relationship. Box 3036.

CREATIVE EAST MIDLANDS woman in unorthodox marriage, needs loving friend. ArtismaEE47@hotmail.com

HAPPILY MARRIED 45 MAN – usual number of limbs and no proven oddities, hugely solvent, having sold 2 businesses – seeks passionate long term discreet affair with happily married intelligent woman, so both can revisit the tingle factor. Box 3136.

TALL, FUNNY, ATHLETIC, well travelled married man, 36, seeks to lunch then seduce slim ladies. E-mail: mrman123@hotmail.com Tel: 07816 323 553

I AM TALL, SLIM, FIT, 50 YEARS OLD, divorced, successful businessman looking for a special lady to spoil and enjoy the finer things in life in a long term relationship. Discretion assured if necessary. You are attractive, intelligent, romantic and love life. You will have a sparkle in your eyes, love travel and surprises, have a free spirit and be passionate about the good things in life. You will enjoy champagne on the beach at dawn or sunset and life will be a rollercoaster of fun and pleasure. Seize the moment. Photo essential. Box 2336.

WARM, FUNNY, SENSUOUS lady seeks similar discreet male. Midlands. Emma348@hotmail.com

HAPPILY, BUT PLATONICALLY married man (50), seeks a witty and sensual woman for daytime fun in London. Box 3236.

INTELLECTUAL, MATURED Catherine Zeta Jones style attractive, professional, tall, woman writer (without family commitments) – seeking cultured, wealthy and generous patron who is 6 ft. or taller. London or international. 07748 357113.

OVERSEXED BUT UNDERUSED lover seeks mistress in a similar predicament. Box 1338.

KIND, CARING, married, sensitive, generous, successful media professional, good listener, 48, seeks discrete playmate to stimulate mind and possibly other parts too. broughton87@hotmail.com or Box 1238.

EYE SEEK

BEARDED VIENNESE doctor ISO mother figure. Call: 'WHO'S IN THE BAG?' – 0800 389 4748.

LIVELY LADY WRITER, (70's) offers home share to refined gentleman with country sports interests - and perhaps own horse? - in exchange for some driving etc. Wiltshire. For further information, please contact – Jan Laine, The Sterling Partnership, Tel: 01484 455484, Box 0137.

EYE CONTACT

'CLUB RUSSIA' – The Romantic Russian Adventure. Simply the best opportunity for unattached men to meet the right women in the right numbers in the right environment. Longterm relationships only. 90% success rate on our holidays! Sceptical? We offer a moneyback guarantee. Details: 08702 201553. E-mail: info@clubrussia.com

THAILAND HOLIDAY 24 October – meet respectable marriage-minded ladies – 02380 340829.

INTIMATE TELEPHONE CHAT – 09099 100 143. www.phoneflirts.co.uk PO Box 182 CT11 8GT, calls 75p minute.

RUSSIAN LADIES seek relationship/marriage. Introductions in UK. Affordable trips to Moscow/St. Petersburg. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. Phone: RIS 01708 478697.

THAI CONNECTION – 600 marriages. Featured Thai TV BEST AGENCY, video/brochure – 01582 481725.

25P/MIN ADULT CONTACTS – girls/guys online 24hrs. jcg tn219dz, 09062 765 252.

'ADULT CHATLINE' Girls 18+, Women online, 60p/min, jcg, tn21 8xz – 0906 361 1685.

THAI LADIES – Superb videos. Colour brochure SIAM INTRODUCTIONS (established 14 years) as seen on TV (22 times!) – 01689 860880. www.siam-intro.com

MAKE A DATE with one of our very attractive dining companions tonight – www.debutantes.uk.com – 07968 947185

MAKE INTERESTING new friends UK/WORLDWIDE. Free details. DESTINY HEART (Dept PE) PO Box 10, Leeds LS12 1YZ.

ASIAN PARTNERS: Suman Marriage Bureau Established 1972. Member ABIA.– 020 8571 5145 or www.suman-online.com

PRIVATE ADULT CLUB. Contacts and parties. Free magazine. 07000 780794 ext: 493.

ADDITIONS – 'ATTACHED' Discreet Loving Agency for married people. 020 8905 3304, 020 8958 9657. Established 1992.

NATURAL FRIENDS – quality on & off-line introductions. Free brochure 0800 281 933 www.natural-friends.com

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN LADIES. Colour brochures, trips to St. Petersburg only £525. Call Nick & Lilya on 0113 2733442 (24hrs) – http://www.russian-rendezvous.co.uk – www.russian-rendezvous.co.uk

PERSON TO PERSON – genuine friends/loving partners, all ages, U.K. or overseas. Details: (Dept. PE) PO Box 40, Minehead, TA24 5YS. 01643 709 509.

THAI PARTNERS. New ethical agency introduces your ideal wife. Brochure, video 07810 562024 – kthcastell@aol.com

DATING, naughty news, and videos (wink wink) www.lovenet.co.uk

LONELY HEARTS: CHAT & DATE 0906 752 6299*, LIVE 1-2-1 ADULT CHAT 0906 734 3206.** Website: www.harmonypartners.co.uk - matchmaking, herbal medicines, cheap calls, flights, hotels – *75p/min.**£1/min. PO Box 20025, London NW2 4ZL.

LADIES IN WAITING just 'DINING' to meet you! Black tie balls, dinner parties, skiing, foreign travel and sporting events. Tel: 07000 785303 – www.dinnerdates.com

ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE? Call David at LOVING LINKS 020 7602 8727. Info line 0906 550 1361 – www.lovinglinks.co.uk – Discreet dating at the speed of E-mail.

RESPECTABLE SINCERE marriage-minded Thai ladies seek like-minded gentlemen. Free brochure. T.P.I. 01562 748 600 (24hrs). www.thai-professional.com

CLANDESTINE relationships. Real people – remotely by post. 3x27p stamps to EPPS, PO Box 36, Dartford, DA2 7ZU.

EYE HOMES

GYDE HOUSE, PAINSWICK NR CHELTENHAM. Fabulous country home living set in the heart of the Cotswolds. Luxurious specification. 5 acres of formal/informal gardens. Entrance gates, allocated parking and CCTV. Close to Cheltenham, the M5 and rail links to London. Prices from £175,000. Phone Wainhomes on 01452 814882 for details – www.wainhomes.com

EYE ESCAPE

NEAR RYE - Your place in the country - a little different. Indoor pool, leisure centre, beauty and massage. Flackley Ash Country House Hotel, Peasmarsh, Sussex. 01797 230651

NEED A COTSWOLD HOTEL for £20 a night? Don't bother us then! www.cotswoldsfinesthotels.com – 01452 425673

CRETE FOR LOVERS. Private village houses/hotels. Singles/Couples 0030 822 32030 – www.crete-direct.com

EYE FLY

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices – allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268 – Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

AWARD WINNING SERVICE, impartial advice, competitive prices: 01423 867226, Fax: 01423 869335. E-mail: info@rtknaresborough.fsnet.co.uk – Website: www.ryedaletravel.co.uk ABTA 28716.

EYE CARE

CANCER INFORMATION. Common causes, Prevention and Cure – www.cancer-info.co.uk

'ERECTION CORRECTION' – VIR Clinics offer all effective treatments. 0800 163861 or www.vir-clinics.com

STOP SMOKING GUARANTEED. One session. Other problems sensitively addressed – 020 7357 9905.

EYE TECH

FREE DOMAIN *NAME!* Web design, hosting and more - www.intothenet.co.uk or *08700 750 700*, quote PE33.

COMPUTER TROUBLE? LET A GENUINE PC EXPERT HELP YOU with advice, installation, setup, programming and trouble-shooting – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 020 7229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES – Save £££'s HUGE SAVINGS on Inkjet Cartridges & Toner Cartridges for HP, Epson, Canon, Lexmark etc. Tel: 0800 917 4073 Fax: 0800 917 4074 – www.inkjet4.com

CHALDON WEB. High impact web pages. Search Engine placement. Online shops. Advertise professional services. Publish your CV. Competitive prices. www.chaldonweb.co.uk – 0800 1957806

REGISTER .CO.UK DOMAIN NAMES FOR £10 AND .COM NAMES FOR £18 for more details visit http://www.a-q.co.uk or tel: 0800 389 5815

Domainnamepurchase.co.uk – Secure on-line service with telephone numbers, support and advice from HUMAN BEINGS! 020 8980 0909.

EYE HELP

WRITING TUTOR reviews, edits, proof-reads manuscripts. Tel: 01974 821564.

PERSONAL INJURY? We tell it as it is. No win almost no fee. RHF solicitors – 0161 839 9009.

ACCOUNTING/SECRETARIAL SERVICES – too busy working to do paperwork? Reliable weekly/monthly services, south Oxfordshire. 6-9-ish p.m. – for flat fee. Tel/Fax PENNY 01491 834107.

FOR WORLDWIDE EXPOSURE of your business advertise on our website – www.ameurinternational.com

OUCH! INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? CAN YOU CLAIM COMPENSATION? Free on-line advice from specialist lawyer. See OUCH at www.willans.co.uk

BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION. Debt problems? Help available. 01524 64305 – www.theba.org.uk

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 020 8556 2979 for brochure.

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional, Mitch Murray – see page 34.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY CLAIMS. Lost out due to bad advice? Why don't you sue your adviser? Contact GORVIN, SMITH, FORT SOLICITORS and we'll do it for you. FREEPHONE 0800 214531 or E-mail enquiries@gorvin.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS PRIVATE, DISCREET, CONFIDENTIAL mail/message-holding service. REGENT STREET. Established 1979. Tel: 020 7580 4242. web: www.hold-everything.com

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES, £90. Brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, E-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

EYE DETECT

PRIVATE DETECTIVE. Tracing, debt recovery, fraud, international – www.crib2.com – 0121 247 2600.

BUGGING DEVICE transmits to FM radio. £19.95 – Cheques/Visa: MICROTEC, 8 Chestnut Road, Guildford, GU1 1HG – 01483 570417. www.spys.co.uk

NATIONWIDE INVESTIGATIONS UK'S PREMIER INVESTIGATION AGENCY Provides a comprehensive service to lawyers, commerce, industry and the general public in all areas of civil, criminal and personal matters. Tel: 020 7464 4600. Fax: 020 7464 4610. E-mail: nig@worlddetectives.com Website: http://www.worlddetectives.com Established 1963.

TEL: 07000 SLEUTH

LINK INVESTIGATIONS PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL INVESTIGATORS Tracing, Surveillance, Staff Vetting, Undercover Agents, Matrimonial, Debugging, etc. Tel: 01306 880707 Fax: 01306 888077 E-mail: info@linkinvestigations.co.uk Web Site: www.linkinvestigations.co.uk

EYE PROTECT

INTELLECTUAL Property Investigations – Specialists in: Trademark verification of use, non use, nature and extent of use. Domain name enquiries. Sample pictures and purchases. Anti-counterfeiting and parallel trade investigations. FIXED FEES ARE AVAILABLE ON MOST SERVICES. Contact DMIPI on 020 7842 3456 or visit our website at www.dmipi.com

ARE YOU BUGGED? Professional computerised counter-surveillance sweeps by experts. Office, home, car, hotels etc. ANYTIME, ANYWHERE. WE MAKE IT SAFE to talk. 0161 792 8752 or 07973 836458.

EYE NEED

I'VE TORN MY SILK STOCKINGS on my high-heeled shoes. LloydsTSB: 30-92-21 – 00631505 to buy me a new pair.

HOMELESS FAMILY NEEDS £3000 to rebuild life – donations appreciated. Thanks. HALIFAX Sort Code: 11-01-49, Account Number: 00749874.

SINGLE FATHER STRUGGLING TO KEEP CHILDREN - donations gratefully received. Thanks. Barclays: 20-46-73, Account 70337633.

SAUCY UK PORN FILM called 'Full English Breakfast' desperately needs patron to donate £25,000 to enable completion. NatWest Sort Code: 60-50-00, Account Number 8874365902.

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP single parent? Unmanageable debts (£6000), Being pressured for repayment. Psoriasis worsening. Genuinely desperate. Co-op: 08-93-00, 14082551.

MOTHER OF 2 abused children needs help protecting them from abuser. Massive solicitors bills building. Please help us. 30-91-87, 3144986.

BRIGHT BUT BROKE, need £10,000 to realise small business idea. Genuine thanks. NatWest 60-06-06, 01699822.

WORKING with sexually abused children. Skint and burnt out. Need a break. Thanks. Barclays A/C 6057657302, S/C 20-69-15.

MUM SELLING beloved fortepiano to enhance teenagers' lives. £1000 o.n.o. Tel: 01803 864459.

HELP ME TAKE CARE of an Aids orphan child – any little help will be very much appreciated thank you. HBSC Bank: 40-47-75, 22002973.

GUARANTOR NEEDED for £10,000 loan. Solvent writer can repay bank unaided. Offers brilliant writing/speaking tuition as thanks – 020 8374 3924.

30-13-53, 7098129 LLOYDS – £30k. Background available. Box 0336.

FOR EVERY £1 YOU SEND, I give you 10 words on *how I spend it* – maximum £100,000. Cheques/PO 'Chris Coombes' Box 0437 or chriscoombes@hotmail.com.

PRODUCTION of unique photographic book needs finance to complete creation of images. E-mail: photo1192000@yahoo.co.uk

STUPIDLY GENEROUS EX-BARTS NURSE now unavoidably saddled with fraudster's debts, desperately needs £25k to avoid having to sell home. Genuine and enormously grateful for any help. Woolwich 10-80-02 253227117 or Box 0537.

ATMA FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT & Healing Centre founded 2000 seeks donations towards advertising/running costs/. Non profit. Donations to: ATMA Foundation, Seren, 47 Queens Road, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4AW. Brochure available. Thank You.

EYE JOBS

TEMPORARY HELP NEEDED for the Battersea subscriptions office of PRIVATE EYE. Ideal for local person. Good typing speed and some computer experience necessary. Contact Amanda Alcock on 020 7228 0588 (office hours).

EYE EARN

I NEED PEOPLE who want HIGH INCOME. If that's your need contact: 1091 377 1763 or www.contact-workfromhome.com – Genuine established business opportunity.

NEVER AGAIN be without money. Secret mail order system makes fortunes. Easy, discreet, lucrative. Free information 01784 246 788. Ext: 150.

OWN A COMPUTER? Work from home. Earn up to £500 per week part-time www. find-a new-life.com

EYE LEARN

www.grantsforstudents.com

CARTOONING – "GNOME" STUDY COURSE with EYE CARTOONISTS. For prospectus – 01785 250 700. E-mail: cartoonists@cartoon.co.uk

EYE COLLECT

CASH PAID FOR OLD FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES (pre 1960s). Telephone: 07760 113540 or E-mail: davman@telinco.co.uk

WISDENS & CRICKET BOOKS wanted. Best prices paid. MR BODYLINE: 020 7385 2176 – info@bodylinebooks.com

PLEASURE AND INVESTMENT. Autographs and memorabilia. Call Europe's largest dealer - Freephone 0800 731 0852 or www.fraserautographs.com

EYE FINANCE

EYE SUBSCRIBER has built award-winning, best in class product, for UK/Global markets. Short term funding needed for this UK venture. Phone 07973 321067. E-mail: londonuk88@hotmail.com

ANGELS WANTED... From Here To Eternity – for first independent, 21st century CINEMA restored to original Art Deco. THE REX, Berkhampstead, needs state of the art screening gear. Please call James Hannaway 01442 866787 – E-mail: hannaway@appleonline.net

WE INCORPORATE COMPANIES £98 + vat 01306 888542 – www.formacompany.co.uk/pe/

9K LONG TERM LOAN – A.P.R. convenient 2U. I repay with £95.84p monthly war pension. Box 0938.

EYE SAY

ON YER NIKE, BEELZEBUSH – Church of the Militant Elvis.

IT'S NOT YOUR WAR – www.ghostmoney.co.uk

D J PHILLIPS – loyalty plus devotion equals a lifetime of love from your brother. You have the first, I shall supply the second; hence the third. HAPPY BIRTHDAY – Love from Charles.

WE APOLOGISE to anyone offended by the rude adult section of our MAGIC JOKE SHOP web site. Viewers must be over 18. www.jokeshop.com

CELEB SAYS : You rang S.?

I SUGGEST OUR EXISTENCE is caused by a supernatural creator that did not initiate religions for our adherence. Please contact me for correspondence concerning this creator. MICHAEL WALKER, 10 Chiltern Court, Twyford Road, St Albans AL4 9BN.

www.grantsforstudents.com – www.trinityeducation.com

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's LEADING PROFESSIONAL, Mitch Murray – see page 34.

CAPITAINE – thinking of Kylie. Thanks for all your support. ILY. SOUS-FIFRE.

Save money. Cut the cost of your life insurance – instantly!

If you have taken out a life insurance policy in the last five years, or are considering one now, LifeSearch will save you money. We compare hundreds of quotes from leading companies to get you the same cover for considerably less.

£100,000 of Life Cover

Nationwide Life	£20.70
M & S	£15.25
Eagle Star Direct	£14.66
Abbey National Life	£14.42
Virgin	£12.00
LifeSearch	**£10.10**

Call LifeSearch direct on

0800 316 3166

Anytime 8.00am to 8.00pm weekdays and weekends

Please quote reference PE 5

www.lifesearch.co.uk

*Life*SEARCH

We search. You save.

Premiums based on a monthly cost, with a leading insurer, for 25 year level term life cover for a non-smoking man aged 35 next birthday in normal health. Figures correct at 04.07.01

extremely portable solution

Ultra-small **footprint** for desktop **computing**

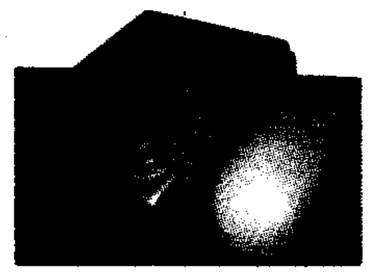
Weight 950g
Dimensions 157 x 146 x 45mm

Jadetec MicroPC is the world's smallest PC, it's the size of a CD-ROM with full working functionality of a desktop computer. Specifications cater for Intel Pentium III CPU, 256 Mb, 30 Gb HDD, CD/DVD/CDRW. It features on-board 56k V90 Fax/Modem & 10/100 Base-T Ethernet, 2 USB Ports, Serial & Parallel connections and it's IrDA compliant. It's ready to run Windows 95/98/ME/2000 or Linux.

pentium III

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The MicroPC is more than capable of mixing with its desktop counterparts. The MicroPC's solid level of performance and reasonable pricing makes it an interesting addition to the PC market."

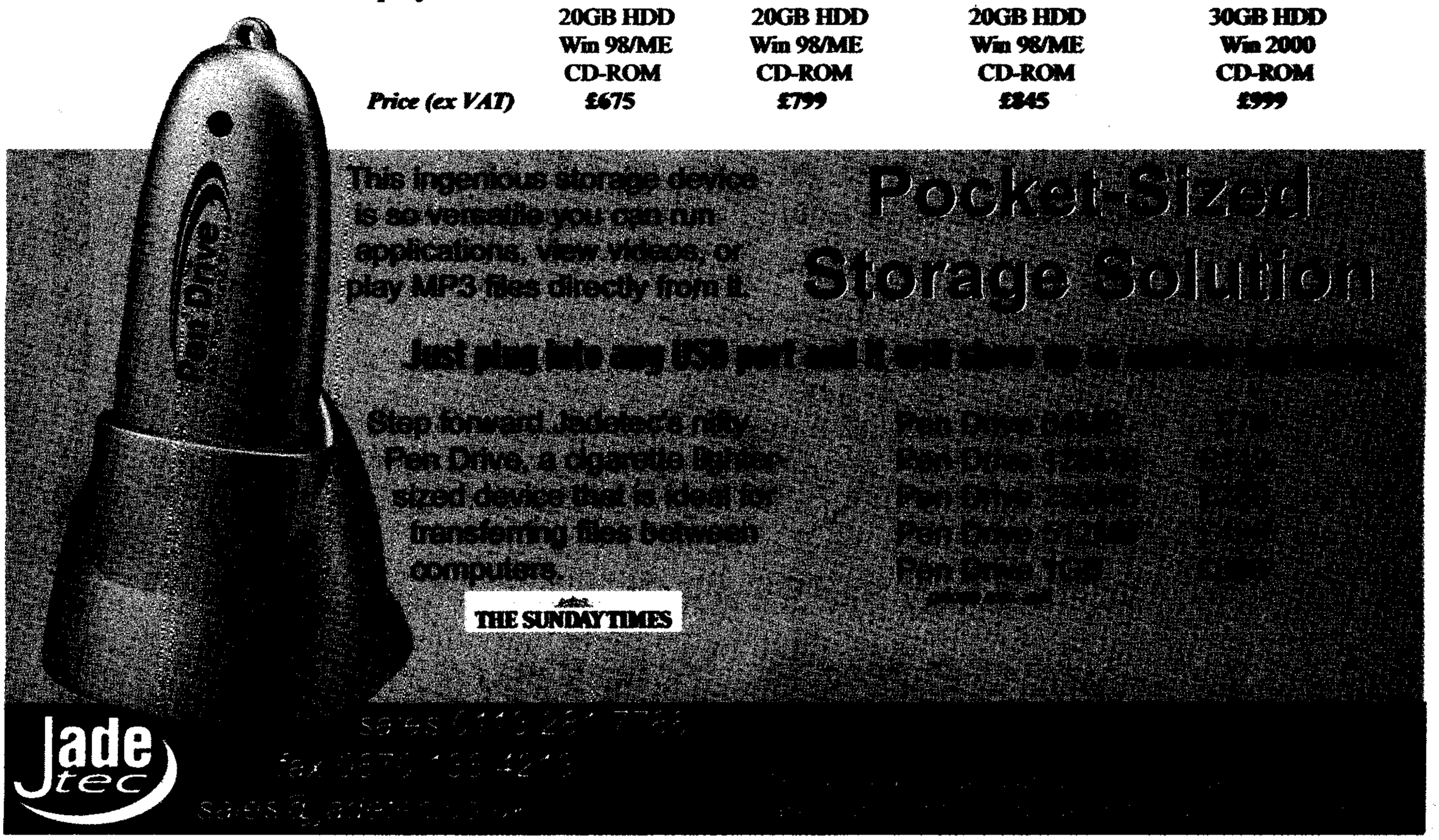


Available From

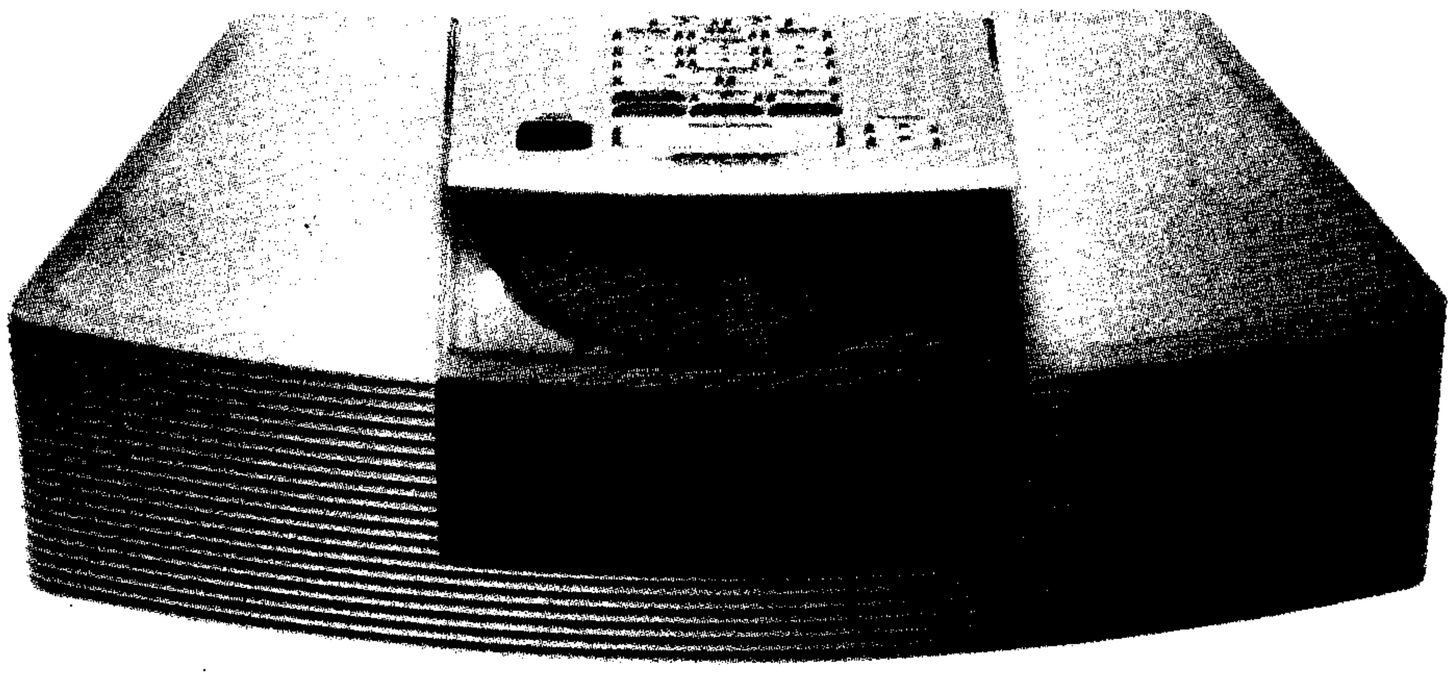
Office World

Selected Stores

Specification	*Celeron 800*	*Pentium III 933*	*Pentium III 1Ghz*	*Pentium III 1Ghz*
	64 MB DIMM	128MB DIMM	128MB DIMM	256MB DIMM
	20GB HDD	20GB HDD	20GB HDD	30GB HDD
	Win 98/ME	Win 98/ME	Win 98/ME	Win 2000
	CD-ROM	CD-ROM	CD-ROM	CD-ROM
Price (ex VAT)	£675	£799	£845	£999


This ingenious storage device is so versatile you can run applications, view videos, or play MP3 files directly from it.
Just plug into any USB port and it will show up as
Step forward Jadetec's nifty Pen Drive, a cigarette lighter sized device that is ideal for transferring files between computers.
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Pocket-Sized Storage Solution
Jade tec

THE GUARANTEE IS AS CLEAR AND UNDISTORTED AS THE SOUND.



THE BOSE® WAVE® RADIO/CD. We can describe to you how clear and natural the sound is. We can explain how the small size, convenience and simplicity add to the delight. But can you really appreciate it without experiencing it?

That's why we created our in-home trial and risk-free satisfaction guarantee. It's the best way we can think of to give you the truest experience possible – hearing the rich, lifelike, room-filling sound exactly where you'll use it.

When you do, we think you'll realize that no other system this size matches the performance. That's because no one but Bose has acoustic waveguide speaker technology. It's a patented breakthrough so revolutionary, it won the prestigious Inventor of the Year award – one of the many innovations that make us one of the most highly respected names in sound.

CALL TODAY AND DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LISTENING TO MUSIC.

WITH THE BOSE SATISFACTION GUARANTEE YOU RISK NOTHING. CALL FREEPHONE TO ORDER AND LISTEN IN YOUR OWN HOME. IF YOU CAN BEAR TO PART WITH IT, RETURN IT ANYTIME WITHIN 30 DAYS FOR A REFUND OF YOUR FULL PURCHASE PRICE. WE'LL EVEN ARRANGE TO HAVE IT PICKED UP. NO QUESTIONS. NO HASSLES.

Call 0800 022 044, ref. 7317

Or return this coupon to receive your free information pack.

MR/MRS/MS. _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

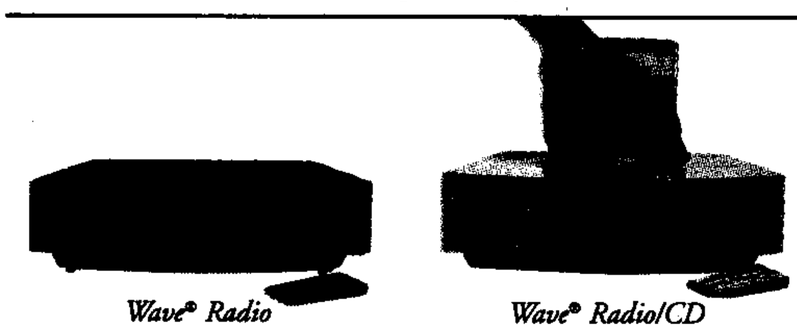
_____ POSTCODE

DAY TEL. _____ EVE TEL. _____

7317

Wave® radio/CD and Wave® radio are available in Platinum White or Graphite Grey.

Send to: Bose Corporation, FREEPOST EX 151, EXETER, EX1 1ZY.
No stamp necessary.



Wave® Radio *Wave® Radio/CD*

Knight Ridder Newspapers writes, "We were amazed by the warmth and 'oomph' of the sound." We think you'll agree. In fact, we think you'll find yourself enjoying music more – and enjoying it more frequently – appreciating notes and subtleties you never knew existed.

NO OTHER SYSTEM THIS SIZE DELIVERS OUR SOUND QUALITY. That's why we can offer you our no-risk satisfaction guarantee. You call us. We deliver the Wave® radio/CD or the Wave® radio to your home. You listen. You decide. Then, if you can bear to part with it, return it anytime within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price. We'll even arrange to have it collected at no cost to you. It's that simple.

Call today to take advantage of our interest-free payment plan – and the clear and undistorted guarantee that lets you listen, and make up your own mind.

For FREE delivery, order by 31 December 2001.

BOSE®
Better sound through research®

If you do not wish to receive mailings from carefully selected companies, please advise us.

©2001 Bose Corporation. All rights reserved. Patent rights issued and/or pending in the U.S. and other countries. The Wave® radio design is also a registered trademark of Bose Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. Instalment payment plan and free delivery offer not to be combined with any other offer or applied to previous purchases. Instalment payment plan available on credit/debit card orders only and subject to change without notice. Delivery is subject to product availability. Quote reprinted with permission from Takiff, Knight Ridder Newspapers, 2 Apr. 99.

40>
9 770032 888051